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DESCRIPTION

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROCESSING INFORMATIONAL SIGNAL, DEVICE FOR PROCESSING IMAGE SIGNAL AND IMAGE DISPLAY DEVICE, UNIT AND METHOD FOR
5 **GENERATING CORRECTION DATA USED THEREIN, UNIT AND METHOD FOR GENERATING COEFFICIENT DATA, PROGRAM FOR PERFORMING EACH OF THESE METHODS, AND COMPUTER-READABLE MEDIUM FOR STORING THE PROGRAM**

TECHNICAL FIELD

10 The present invention relates to an apparatus for processing informational signal and the like to which it is preferably applied when reducing an encoding noise of an informational signal obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal.

More specifically, the present invention relates to an apparatus for processing informational signal and the like in which a class to which pixel data of a target position in an output informational signal belongs is detected based on an input informational signal and informational data corresponding to the target position in the output informational signal among items of the informational data constituting the input informational signal is corrected by using correction data that corresponds to the detected class to obtain informational data of the target position in this output informational signal, thereby enabling an encoding noise of the informational signal occurred in decoding the encoded informational digital signal to be well reduced.

The present invention also relates to an apparatus for processing informational signal and the like in which informational data, which corresponds to a target position in an output informational signal, among items of informational data constituting an input

informational signal is corrected by using correction data that corresponds to a first class to which the target position in this output informational signal belongs and informational data of the target position in this output informational signal is generated based on 5 an estimate equation by using multiple items of informational data, which are selected on the basis of the corrected informational data, positioned in a periphery of the target position in the output informational signal and coefficient data that corresponds to a second class to which the target position in this output informational signal 10 belongs, thereby enabling an encoding noise of the informational signal occurred in decoding the encoded informational digital signal to be well reduced.

BACKGROUND ART

15 Encoding scheme according to a moving picture expert group (MPEG) phase using a discrete cosine transform (DCT) has been known as a compressive encoding scheme of image signal. DCT process is done such that the discrete cosine transform is executed on pixels within each block to obtain coefficient data and then, the coefficient data 20 thus obtained by the discrete cosine transform is re-quantized and the re-quantized coefficient data is encoded in variable length. With respect to such the variable length encoding, entropy coding such as Huffman coding has been often used. Orthogonal transform coding is executed on image data so that it is divided into many items of frequency 25 data from low frequency to high frequency.

It has such an characteristic that a high quality image can be maintained and also a high efficient compression can be implemented, according to the way that, when re-quantizing the divided frequency data, low-frequency-component data, which is more significant, is fine

quantized with taking eyesight of human being into consideration while high-frequency-component data, which is less significant, is coarsely quantized with taking eyesight of human being into consideration.

In conventional DCT decoding, the quantized data for each 5 frequency component is transformed to its central value and it performs inverse DCT (IDCT) on those components, thereby acquiring reproduced data. A quantization step width in encoding is used when transforming it to the central value.

As described in the above, the encoding scheme according to MPEG 10 using DCT has such a characteristic that a high-quality image can be maintained and also a high efficient compression can be implemented by encoding with taking eyesight of human being into consideration.

However, the DCT encoding is an encoding process based on a unit of block and thus, it exhibits that, when the compression rate is higher, 15 a block-like noise, a known block noise (block distortion) may occur. A blotchy noise, a known mosquito noise, due to a coarse quantization on the high-frequency component also occurs in a part of image such as an edge having sharp luminance transition.

Such the encoding noises (encoding distortion) may occur in not 20 only the encoding scheme according to MPEG but also another encoding scheme.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to excellently reduce an 25 encoding noise (encoding distortion) of informational signal occurred in decoding an encoded informational digital signal.

An apparatus relative to the invention is an apparatus for processing informational signal in which a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first

informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, is converted into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the apparatus comprising data selection means for selecting multiple items 5 of first informational data positioned in a periphery of a target position in the second informational signal, based on the first informational signal, class detection means for detecting a class to which informational data of the target position belongs, based on the multiple items of first informational data selected by the data 10 selection means, correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to the class detected by the class detection means, and correction means for performing correction processing by use of the correction data generated by the correction data generation means on 15 second informational data among the multiple items of informational data that constitute the first informational signal, the second informational data corresponding to the target position in the second informational signal, to obtain informational data of the target position in the second informational signal.

20 A method relative to the invention is a method for processing informational signal in which a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, is converted into a second informational signal comprised of 25 multiple items of informational data, the method comprising a first step of selecting multiple items of first informational data positioned in a periphery of a target position in the second informational signal, based on the first informational signal, a second step of detecting a class to which informational data of the

target position belongs, based on the multiple items of first informational data selected by the first step, a third step of generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to the class detected by the second step, 5 and a fourth step of performing correction processing by use of the correction data generated by the third step on second informational data among the multiple items of informational data that constitute the first informational signal, the second informational data corresponding to the target position in the second informational 10 signal, to obtain informational data of the target position in the second informational signal.

A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute the above method for processing informational signal. A computer-readable medium relative to the invention records the above 15 program.

A device for processing image signal relative to the invention is a device for processing image signal in which a first image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data, the first image signal being obtained by decoding an encoded digital image signal, is converted 20 into a second image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data, the device comprising data selection means for selecting multiple items of first pixel data positioned in a periphery of a target position in the second image signal, based on the first image signal, class detection means for detecting a class to which pixel data of the target 25 position belongs, based on the multiple items of first pixel data selected by the data selection means, correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to the class detected by the class detection means, and correction means for performing correction

processing by use of the correction data generated by the correction data generation means on second pixel data among the multiple items of pixel data that constitute the first image signal, the second pixel data corresponding to the target position in the second image signal,

5 to obtain pixel data of the target position in the second image signal.

An image display device relative to the invention comprises image signal input means for allowing a first image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data to be input, the first image signal being obtained by decoding an encoded digital image signal,

10 image-signal-processing means for converting the first image signal input through the image signal input means into a second image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data and outputting it, and image display means for displaying an image on an image display element thereof, the image being due to the second image signal output from

15 the image-signal-processing means, wherein the image-signal-processing means includes data selection means for selecting multiple items of first pixel data positioned in a periphery of a target position in the second image signal, based on the first image signal, class detection means for detecting a class to which pixel data of the target

20 position belongs, based on the multiple items of first pixel data selected by the data selection means, correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to the class detected by the class detection means, and correction means for performing correction

25 processing by use of the correction data generated by the correction data generation means on second pixel data among the multiple items of pixel data that constitute the first image signal, the second pixel data corresponding to the target position in the second image signal, to obtain pixel data of the target position in the second image signal.

In the invention, the first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data is generated by decoding an encoded informational digital signal. Based on this first informational signal, multiple items of first informational data 5 positioned in a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal are selected and, based on the multiple items of first informational data, a class to which informational data of the target position belongs is detected. As the informational signal, an image signal or an audio signal is considered, for example.

10 As described above, correction data for correcting an encoding noise that corresponds to the detected class is generated. For example, the correction data for each of the classes is stored in storage means, so that from this storage means, the correction data that corresponds to the detected class is read. This correction data is generated 15 beforehand by using a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal and a teacher signal that corresponds to the second informational signal. This student signal, for example, has been obtained by decoding an informational digital signal obtained by encoding the teacher signal. In such the case, the student signal 20 contains an encoding noise (encoding distortion).

Of multiple items of informational data that constitute the first informational signal, second informational data that corresponds to the target position in the second informational signal is subjected to correction processing by use of the above-mentioned 25 generated correction data to generate informational data of the target position.

For example, the correction data includes difference data of number corresponding to the number of item(s) of the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal. In

this case, if the number of item(s) of the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is equal to that of the second informational data of the second informational data that corresponds to this target position, adding the corresponding

5 correction data to each of the items of second informational data allows the corrected informational data to be obtained.

Further, in this case, if the number of items of the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is N times (N is 2 or a larger integer) the number of item(s)

10 of the second informational data corresponding to this target position, adding the corresponding second informational data to each of the items of correction data contained in each divided region obtained by dividing the correction data by N allows the corrected informational data to be obtained.

15 In such a manner, a class to which pixel data of a target position in the second informational signal belongs is detected on the basis of the first informational signal, and informational data corresponding to the target position in an informational output signal among items of the informational data that constitute the first informational signal is corrected using correction data that corresponds to the detected class to obtain informational data of the target position in the second informational signal, thereby well reducing an encoding noise (encoding distortion) in the informational signal obtained by decoding the encoded digital signal.

20 25 An apparatus for processing informational signal relative to the invention is an apparatus for processing informational signal in which a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, is converted into

a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the apparatus comprising data selection means for selecting multiple items of first informational data positioned in a periphery of a target position in the second informational signal,

5 based on the first informational signal, class detection means for detecting a class to which informational data of the target position belongs, based on the multiple items of first informational data selected by the data selection means, correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise

10 relative to a frequency coefficient obtained by orthogonal transformation, the correction data corresponding to the class detected by the class detection means, orthogonal transformation means for performing orthogonal transformation on second informational data among the multiple items of informational data that constitute the

15 first informational signal, the second informational data corresponding to the target position in the second informational signal, correction means for performing correction processing by use of the correction data generated by the correction data generation means on the frequency coefficient obtained by the orthogonal

20 transformation means, and inverse orthogonal transformation means for performing inverse orthogonal transformation on the frequency coefficient corrected by the correction means to obtain the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal.

25 A method for processing informational signal relative to the invention is a method for processing informational signal in which a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, is converted into

a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the method comprising a first step of selecting multiple items of first informational data positioned in a periphery of a target position in the second informational signal, based on the 5 first informational signal, a second step of detecting a class to which informational data of the target position belongs, based on the multiple items of first informational data selected by the first step, a third step of generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise relative to a frequency coefficient obtained by orthogonal 10 transformation, the correction data corresponding to the class detected by the second step, a fourth step of performing orthogonal transformation on second informational data among the multiple items of informational data that constitute the first informational signal, the second informational data corresponding to the target position 15 in the second informational signal, a fifth step of performing correction processing by use of the correction data generated by the third step on the frequency coefficient obtained by the fourth step, and a sixth step of performing inverse orthogonal transformation on the frequency coefficient corrected by the fifth step to obtain the 20 informational data of the target position in the second informational signal.

A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute the above method for processing informational signal. A computer-readable medium relative to the invention records the above 25 program.

A device for processing image signal relative to the invention is a device for processing image signal in which a first image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data, the first image signal being obtained by decoding an encoded digital image signal, is converted

into a second image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data, the device comprising data selection means for selecting multiple items of first pixel data positioned in a periphery of a target position in the second image signal, based on the first image signal, class 5 detection means for detecting a class to which pixel data of the target position belongs, based on the multiple items of first pixel data selected by the data selection means, correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise relative to a frequency coefficient obtained by orthogonal 10 transformation, the correction data corresponding to the class detected by the class detection means, orthogonal transformation means for performing orthogonal transformation on second pixel data among the multiple items of pixel data that constitute the first image signal, the second pixel data corresponding to the target position in the 15 second image signal, correction means for performing correction processing by use of the correction data generated by the correction data generation means on the frequency coefficient output from the orthogonal transformation means, and inverse orthogonal transformation means for performing inverse orthogonal 20 transformation on the frequency coefficient output from the correction means to obtain the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal.

An image display device relative to the invention comprises image signal input means for allowing a first image signal comprised 25 of multiple items of pixel data to be input, the first image signal being obtained by decoding an encoded digital image signal, image-signal-processing means for converting the first image signal input through the image signal input means into a second image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data and outputting it, and image

display means for displaying an image on an image display element thereof, the image being due to the second image signal output from the image-signal-processing means. This image-signal-processing means has the same configuration as that of the above image-
5 signal-processing means.

In the present invention, the first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data is generated by decoding the encoded information digital signal. Based on this first informational signal, multiple items of the first informational data
10 positioned in the periphery of the target position in the second informational signal are selected and, based on the multiple items of first informational data, a class is detected to which informational data of the target position belongs. As the informational signal, an image signal or an audio signal is considered, for example.

15 As described above, the correction data for correcting an encoding noise that corresponds to the detected class is generated. For example, the correction data for each of the classes is stored in storage means, so that from this storage means, the correction data that corresponds to the detected class is read. This correction data
20 is generated beforehand by using the student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal and a teacher signal that corresponds to the second informational signal. This student signal, for example, has been obtained by decoding the information digital signal obtained by encoding the teacher signal. In this case, the student signal
25 contains an encoding noise (encoding distortion).

Of the multiple items of informational data that constitute the first informational signal, second informational data corresponding to the target position in the second informational signal is subjected to orthogonal transformation (discrete cosine transformation,

wavelet transformation, discrete sine transformation, etc.). On the frequency coefficient obtained by this orthogonal transformation, correction processing which uses the correction data generated as described above is performed. On the corrected frequency coefficient,

5 inverse orthogonal transformation is performed to obtain informational data of the target position.

For example, the correction data includes difference data of the number corresponding to the number of item(s) of the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal. In 10 this case, if the number(s) of the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is(are) equal to that of item(s) of the second informational data that corresponds to the target position, adding to each of the frequency coefficients obtained by performing orthogonal transformation on the second informational data 15 the corresponding correction data allows a post-correction frequency coefficient to be obtained.

Further, in this case, if the number of items of the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is N times (N is 2 or a larger integer) the number of item(s) 20 of the second informational data corresponding to the target position, adding to the low-frequency component part of the correction data that corresponds to the frequency coefficient obtained by performing orthogonal transformation on the second informational data, the frequency coefficient obtained by performing orthogonal 25 transformation on this second informational data allows a post-correction frequency coefficient to be obtained.

Further, for example, the correction data includes frequency coefficient of the number corresponding to the number of item(s) of the informational data of the target position in the second

informational signal. In this case, if the number of items of the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is N times (N is 2 or a larger integer) the number of item(s) of the second informational data corresponding to the target position,

5 at least a low-frequency component part of the above-mentioned correction data that corresponds to the frequency coefficient obtained by performing orthogonal transformation on the second informational data is replaced by the frequency coefficient obtained by performing orthogonal transformation on the second informational data, to obtain

10 a post-correction frequency coefficient.

In such a manner, the class to which pixel data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs is detected on the basis of the first informational signal, the frequency coefficient obtained by performing orthogonal transformation on informational data, which corresponds to the target position in an output informational signal, among items of informational data constituting the first informational signal is corrected using correction data that corresponds to the detected class, and inverse orthogonal transformation is performed on the corrected frequency coefficient

15 to obtain informational data of the target position in the second informational signal, thereby well reducing the encoding noise (encoding distortion) of the informational signal obtained by decoding the encoded informational digital signal.

A unit for generating correction data relative to the invention

25 is a unit for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data being used when converting a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, into a second informational signal

comprised of multiple items of informational data, the unit comprising decoding means for decoding informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first 5 informational signal, class detection means for detecting a class to which informational data of a target position in the teacher signal belongs, based on at least the student signal output from the decoding means, subtraction means for performing subtraction processing by use of informational data among the multiple items of informational data 10 that constitute the student signal, the informational data corresponding to the target position, on the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal, and operation means for averaging, for each class, output data of the subtraction means based on the class detected by the class detection means, to obtain 15 correction data for each class.

A method for generating correction data relative to the invention is a method for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data being used when converting a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of 20 informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the method comprising a first step of decoding informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, a second step of detecting a class to which informational data of a target position in the teacher signal belongs, based on at least the student signal obtained at the first step, a third step of performing subtraction 25

processing by use of informational data among the multiple items of informational data that constitute the student signal, the informational data corresponding to the target position, on the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal, and 5 a fourth step of averaging, for each class, data obtained at the third step based on the class detected at the second step, to obtain correction data for each class.

A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute the above method for generating correction data. A computer-readable 10 medium relative to the invention records the above program.

In the present invention, the first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data is an encoded informational digital signal. The present invention provides a unit for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, which 15 is used when converting the first informational signal into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data.

The informational digital signal, which is obtained by encoding the teacher signal that corresponds to the second informational signal, 20 is decoded, to obtain the student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal. Based on at least this student signal, the class to which informational data of a target position in the teacher signal belongs is detected.

The informational data of the target position in the teacher signal is subjected to subtraction processing by use of informational data corresponding to the target position among multiple items of informational data which constitute the student signal. Data obtained by this subtraction processing is averaged for each class based on the class detected as described above, thereby obtaining 25

correction data for each class.

According to the above, correction data, which is used when converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal, is generated, but the correction data corresponding to the class to which informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs is selectively used at the time of the conversion of the first informational signal into the second information, thereby calculating the informational data of the target position. It is thus possible to well reduce the encoding noise of an informational signal obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal.

A unit for generating correction data relative to the invention is a unit for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data being used when converting a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the unit comprising decoding means for decoding informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, class detection means for detecting a class to which informational data of a target position in the teacher signal belongs, based on at least the student signal output from the decoding means, first orthogonal transformation means for performing orthogonal transformation on informational data of the target position in the teacher signal to obtain a first frequency coefficient, second orthogonal transformation means for performing orthogonal transformation on informational data among multiple items of

informational data that constitute the student signal, the informational data corresponding to the target position, to obtain a second frequency coefficient, subtraction means for performing subtraction processing by use of the second frequency coefficient obtained by the second orthogonal transformation means, on the first frequency coefficient obtained by the first orthogonal transformation means, and operation means for averaging, for each class, output data of the subtraction means based on the class detected by the class detection means, to obtain correction data for each class.

10 A method for generating correction data relative to the invention is a method for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data being used when converting a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by 15 decoding an encoded informational digital signal, into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the method comprising a first step of decoding informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that 20 corresponds to the first informational signal, a second step of detecting a class to which informational data of a target position in the teacher signal belongs, based on at least the student signal obtained at the first step, a third step of performing orthogonal transformation on informational data of the target position in the 25 teacher signal to obtain a first frequency coefficient, a fourth step of performing orthogonal transformation on informational data among multiple items of informational data that constitute the student signal, the informational data corresponding to the target position, to obtain a second frequency coefficient, a fifth step of performing

subtraction processing by use of the second frequency coefficient obtained by the fourth step, on the first frequency coefficient obtained by the third step, and a sixth step of averaging, for each class, data obtained at the fifth step based on the class detected 5 by the second step, to obtain correction data for each class.

A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute the above method for generating correction data. A computer-readable medium relative to the invention records the above program.

In the present invention, the first informational signal 10 comprised of multiple items of informational data is an encoded informational digital signal. The present invention provides a unit for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, which is used when converting the first informational signal into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational 15 data.

The informational digital signal, which is obtained by encoding the teacher signal that corresponds to the second informational signal, is decoded, to obtain the student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal. Based on at least this student signal, the class 20 to which informational data of a target position in the teacher signal belongs is detected.

The informational data of the target position in the teacher signal is subjected to orthogonal transformation to obtain the first frequency coefficient. Similarly, informational data corresponding 25 to the target position among multiple items of informational data which constitute the student signal is subjected to orthogonal transformation to obtain the second frequency coefficient.

The first frequency coefficient is subjected to subtraction processing by use of the second frequency coefficient. Data obtained

by this subtraction processing is averaged for each class based on the class detected as described above, thereby obtaining correction data for each class.

According to the above, correction data, which is used when 5 converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal, is generated, but the correction data corresponding to the class to which informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs is selectively used at the time of the conversion of the first informational signal 10 into the second information, thereby calculating the informational data of the target position. It is thus possible to well reduce the encoding noise of an informational signal obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal.

A unit for generating correction data relative to the invention 15 is a unit for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data being used when converting a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, into a second informational signal 20 comprised of multiple items of informational data, the unit comprising decoding means for decoding informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, class detection means for detecting a class to 25 which informational data of a target position in the teacher signal belongs, based on at least the student signal output from the decoding means, and operation means for averaging, for each class, informational data of the target position in the teacher signal based on the class detected by the class detection means, to obtain

correction data for each class.

A method for generating correction data relative to the invention is a method for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data being used when converting a 5 first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the method comprising a first step of decoding informational digital 10 signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, a second step of detecting a class to which informational data of a target position in the teacher signal belongs, based on at least the student signal 15 obtained at the first step, and a third step of averaging, for each class, informational data of the target position in the teacher signal based on the class detected at the second step, to obtain correction data for each class.

A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute 20 the above method for generating correction data. A computer-readable medium relative to the invention records the above program.

In the present invention, the first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data is an encoded informational digital signal. The present invention provides a unit 25 for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, which is used when converting the first informational signal into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data.

The informational digital signal, which is obtained by encoding

the teacher signal that corresponds to the second informational signal, is decoded, to obtain the student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal. Based on at least this student signal, the class to which informational data of a target position in the teacher signal 5 belongs is detected.

The informational data of the target position in the teacher signal is averaged for each class based on the class detected as described above, thereby obtaining correction data for each class.

According to the above, correction data, which is used when 10 converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal, is generated, but the correction data corresponding to the class to which informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs is selectively used at the time of the conversion of the first informational signal 15 into the second information, thereby calculating the informational data of the target position. It is thus possible to well reduce the encoding noise of an informational signal obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal.

A unit for generating correction data relative to the invention 20 is a unit for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data being used when converting a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, into a second informational signal 25 comprised of multiple items of informational data, the unit comprising decoding means for decoding informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, class detection means for detecting a class to

which informational data of a target position in the teacher signal belongs, based on at least the student signal output from the decoding means, orthogonal transformation means for performing orthogonal transformation on informational data of the target position in the teacher signal to obtain a frequency coefficient, and operation means for averaging, for each class, the frequency coefficient obtained by the orthogonal transformation means based on the class' detected by the class detection means, to obtain correction data for each class.

A method for generating correction data relative to the invention is a method for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data being used when converting a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the method comprising a first step of decoding informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, a second step of detecting a class to which informational data of a target position in the teacher signal belongs, based on at least the student signal obtained at the first step, a third step of performing orthogonal transformation on informational data of the target position in the teacher signal to obtain a frequency coefficient, and a fourth step of averaging, for each class, the frequency coefficient obtained by the third step based on the class detected at the second step, to obtain correction data for each class.

A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute the above method for generating correction data. A computer-readable

medium relative to the invention records the above program.

In the present invention, the first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data is an encoded informational digital signal. The present invention provides a unit 5 for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, which is used when converting the first informational signal into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data.

The informational digital signal, which is obtained by encoding 10 the teacher signal that corresponds to the second informational signal, is decoded, to obtain the student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal. Based on at least this student signal, the class to which informational data of a target position in the teacher signal belongs is detected.

15 The informational data of the target position in the teacher signal is subjected to orthogonal transformation to obtain the frequency coefficient. The frequency coefficient is averaged for each class based on the class detected as described above, thereby obtaining correction data for each class.

20 According to the above, correction data, which is used when converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal, is generated, but the correction data corresponding to the class to which informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs is selectively 25 used at the time of the conversion of the first informational signal into the second information, thereby calculating the informational data of the target position. It is thus possible to well reduce the encoding noise of an informational signal obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal.

An apparatus for processing informational signal relative to the invention is an apparatus for processing informational signal in which a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by 5 decoding an encoded informational digital signal, is converted into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the apparatus comprising correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class 10 to which informational data of a target position in the second informational signal belongs, correction means for performing correction processing by use of the correction data generated by the correction data generation means on informational data among the multiple items of informational data that constitute the first 15 informational signal, the informational data corresponding to the target position in the second informational signal, coefficient data generation means for generating coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the second 20 informational signal belongs, data selection means for selecting multiple items of informational data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal, based on the informational data corrected by the correction means, and informational data generation means for generating the informational 25 data of the target position in the second informational signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated by the coefficient data generation means and the multiple items of informational data selected by the data selection means.

A method for processing informational signal relative to the

invention is a method for processing informational signal in which a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, is converted into

5 a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the method comprising a first step of generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of a target position in the second informational signal belongs, a second step

10 of performing correction processing by use of the correction data generated at the first step on informational data among the multiple items of informational data that constitute the first informational signal, the informational data corresponding to the target position in the second informational signal, a third step of generating

15 coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs, a fourth step of selecting multiple items of informational data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the second

20 informational signal, based on the informational data corrected at the second step, and a fifth step of generating the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated at the third step and the multiple items of informational data selected at

25 the fourth step.

A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute the above method for processing informational signal. A computer-readable medium relative to the invention records the above program.

A device for processing image signal relative to the invention is a device for processing image signal in which a first image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data, the first image signal obtained by decoding an encoded digital image signal, is converted 5 into a second image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data, the apparatus comprising correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which pixel data of a target position in the second image signal belongs, correction 10 means for performing correction processing by use of the correction data generated by the correction data generation means on pixel data among the multiple items of pixel data that constitute the first image signal, the pixel data corresponding to the target position in the second image signal, coefficient data generation means for generating 15 coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal belongs, data selection means for selecting multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the second image signal, based on the pixel 20 data corrected by the correction means, and pixel data generation means for generating the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated by the coefficient data generation means and the multiple items of pixel data selected by the data selection means.

25 An image display device relative to the invention is an image display device comprising image signal input means for allowing a first image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data to be input, the first image signal being obtained by decoding an encoded digital image signal, image-signal-processing means for converting the first

image signal input through the image signal input means into a second image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data and outputting it, and image display means for displaying an image on an image display element thereof, the image being due to the second image signal output

5 from the image-signal-processing means, wherein the image-signal-processing means comprises correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which pixel data of a target position in the second image signal belongs, correction

10 means for performing correction processing by use of the correction data generated by the correction data generation means on pixel data among the multiple items of pixel data that constitute the first image signal, the pixel data corresponding to the target position in the second image signal, coefficient data generation means for generating

15 coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal belongs, data selection means for selecting multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the second image signal, based on the pixel

20 data corrected by the correction means, and pixel data generation means for generating the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated by the coefficient data generation means and the multiple items of pixel data selected by the data selection means.

25 In the invention, the first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data is generated by decoding an encoded informational digital signal. As the informational signal, an image signal or an audio signal is considered, for example.

The correction data for correcting an encoding noise that

corresponds to the first class to which the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs is generated. For example, the correction data for each of the classes is stored in storage means, so that from this storage means, the 5 correction data that corresponds to the first class is read. This correction data is generated beforehand by using a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal and a teacher signal that corresponds to the second informational signal. This student signal, for example, has been obtained by decoding an informational 10 digital signal obtained by encoding the teacher signal. In such the case, the student signal contains an encoding noise (encoding distortion).

Of multiple items of informational data that constitute the first informational signal, informational data that corresponds to the 15 target position in the second informational signal is subjected to correction processing by use of the above-mentioned generated correction data. Multiple items of the informational data positioned at a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal are selected based on the corrected informational data.

20 Coefficient data, which is used in the estimate equation, corresponding to the second class to which informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs is generated. For example, the second class is the same as the first class. Alternatively, class classification relating to the second 25 class is the one obtained by making class classification relating to said first class finer.

The informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is generated based on the estimate equation by using the multiple items of the informational data positioned at the

periphery of the target position in the second informational signal and the coefficient data corresponding to the second class to which the informational data of the target position belongs.

In such a manner, the informational data, which corresponds to 5 the target position of the second informational signal, among items of the informational data that constitute the first informational signal is corrected using the correction data corresponding to the first class to which the target position in the second informational signal belongs, and informational data of the target position in the 10 second informational signal is generated based on the estimate equation using multiple items of informational data positioned at a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal, which are selected on the basis of the corrected informational data, and the coefficient data that corresponds to the second class to which 15 the target position in the second informational signal belongs, thereby well reducing an encoding noise in the informational signal obtained by decoding the encoded informational digital signal.

An apparatus for processing informational signal relative to the invention is an apparatus for processing informational signal in 20 which a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, is converted into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the apparatus comprising correction data 25 generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of a target position in the second informational signal belongs, orthogonal transformation means for performing orthogonal transformation on informational data among the

multiple items of informational data that constitute the first informational signal, the informational data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal, correction means for performing correction processing on a frequency 5 coefficient obtained by the orthogonal transformation means by use of the correction data generated by the correction data generation means, coefficient data generation means for generating coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which informational data of the target position 10 in the second informational signal belongs, frequency coefficient selection means for selecting plural frequency coefficients each corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second informational signal based on the frequency coefficient corrected by the correction means, frequency coefficient generation means for 15 generating a frequency coefficient corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated by the coefficient data generation means and the plural frequency coefficients selected by the frequency coefficient selection means, 20 and inverse orthogonal transformation means for obtaining the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal by performing inverse orthogonal transformation on the frequency coefficient generated by the frequency coefficient generation means.

25 A method for processing informational signal relative to the invention is a method for processing informational signal in which a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, is converted into

a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the method comprising a first step of generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of a target 5 position in the second informational signal belongs, a second step of performing orthogonal transformation on informational data among the multiple items of informational data that constitute the first informational signal, the informational data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal, 10 a third step of performing correction processing on a frequency coefficient obtained at the second step by use of the correction data generated at the first step, a fourth step of generating coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which informational data of the target position 15 in the second informational signal belongs, a fifth step of selecting plural frequency coefficients each corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second informational signal based on the frequency coefficient corrected at the third step, a sixth step of generating a frequency coefficient corresponding to the informational 20 data of the target position in the second informational signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated at the fourth step and the plural frequency coefficients selected at the fifth step, and a seventh step of obtaining the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal by performing 25 inverse orthogonal transformation on the frequency coefficient generated at the sixth step.

A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute the above method for processing informational signal. A computer-readable medium relative to the invention records the above

program.

A device for processing image signal relative to the invention is a device for processing image signal in which a first image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data, the first image signal being 5 obtained by decoding an encoded digital image signal, is converted into a second image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data, the device comprising correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which pixel data of a target position 10 in the second image signal belongs, orthogonal transformation means for performing orthogonal transformation on pixel data among the multiple items of pixel data that constitute the first image signal, the pixel data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the second image signal, correction means for performing correction 15 processing on a frequency coefficient obtained by the orthogonal transformation means by use of the correction data generated by the correction data generation means, coefficient data generation means for generating coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which pixel data 20 of the target position in the second image signal belongs, frequency coefficient selection means for selecting plural frequency coefficients each corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second image signal based on the frequency coefficient corrected by the correction means, frequency coefficient generation 25 means for generating a frequency coefficient corresponding to the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated by the coefficient data generation means and the plural frequency coefficients selected by the frequency coefficient selection means,

and inverse orthogonal transformation means for obtaining the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal by performing inverse orthogonal transformation on the frequency coefficient generated by the frequency coefficient generation means.

5 An image display device relative to the invention is an image display device comprising image signal input means for allowing a first image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data to be input, the first image signal being obtained by decoding an encoded digital image signal, image-signal-processing means for converting the first 10 image signal input through the image signal input means into a second image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data and outputting it, and image display means for displaying an image on an image display element thereof, the image being due to the second image signal output from the image-signal-processing means. The image-signal-processing 15 means has same configuration as that of the above apparatus for processing image signal.

In the invention, the first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data is generated by decoding an encoded informational digital signal. As the informational signal, 20 an image signal or an audio signal is considered, for example.

Correction data for correcting an encoding noise that corresponds to the first class to which the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs is generated. For example, the correction data for each of the classes 25 is stored in storage means, so that from this storage means, the correction data that corresponds to the first class is read. This correction data is generated beforehand by using a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal and a teacher signal that corresponds to the second informational signal. This student

signal, for example, has been obtained by decoding an informational digital signal obtained by encoding the teacher signal. In such the case, the student signal contains an encoding noise (encoding distortion).

5 Of the multiple items of informational data that constitute the first informational signal, informational data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal is subjected to orthogonal transformation (discrete cosine transformation, wavelet transformation, discrete sine transformation, 10 etc.). On the frequency coefficient obtained by this orthogonal transformation, correction processing which uses the correction data generated as described above is performed.

15 Based on the corrected frequency coefficient, the plural frequency coefficients each corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second informational signal are selected. Further, the coefficient data used in an estimate equation, which corresponds to a second class to which the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal belongs, is generated. For example, 20 the second class is the same as the first class. Alternatively, class classification relating to the second class is the one obtained by making class classification relating to said first class finer.

25 A frequency coefficient corresponding to the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal is generated based on the estimate equation by using the plural frequency coefficients corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second informational signal and the coefficient data corresponding to the second class to which informational data of the target position belongs. The inverse orthogonal transformation is then performed on the generated frequency coefficient, thereby obtaining informational

data of the target position.

In such a manner, frequency coefficient obtained by performing the orthogonal transformation on informational data, which

corresponds to the target position in the output signal, among items

5 of informational data that constitute the first informational signal is corrected using the correction data corresponding to the first class

to which the target position in the second informational signal belongs, and frequency coefficient corresponding to informational data of the

target position in the second informational signal is generated based

10 on the estimate equation using plural frequency coefficients, which

are selected based on the corrected frequency coefficient, each

frequency coefficient corresponding to the periphery of the target

position in the second informational signal and coefficient data

corresponding to the second class to which the target position in the

15 second informational signal belongs, so that informational data of

the target position in the second informational signal is obtained

by performing orthogonal transformation on the frequency coefficient,

thereby well reducing an encoding noise in the informational signal

obtained by decoding the encoded informational digital signal.

20 An apparatus for processing informational signal relative to

the invention is an apparatus for processing informational signal in

which a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of

informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by

decoding an encoded informational digital signal, is converted into

25 a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of

informational data, the apparatus comprising correction data

generation means for generating correction data for correcting an

encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class

to which informational data of a target position in the second

informational signal belongs, first data selection means for selecting multiple items of informational data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal, based on the first informational signal, second data selection means for selecting 5 multiple items of correction data that corresponds to the multiple items of informational data selected by the first data selection means, based on the correction data generated by the correction data generation means, coefficient data generation means for generating coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data 10 corresponding to a second class to which informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs, and informational data generation means for generating the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated by 15 the coefficient data generation means, the multiple items of informational data selected by the first data selection means, and the multiple items of correction data selected by the second data selection means.

A method for processing informational signal relative to the 20 invention is a method for processing informational signal in which a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, is converted into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of 25 informational data, the method comprising a first step of generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of a target position in the second informational signal belongs, a second step of selecting multiple items of informational data positioned in a

periphery of a target position in the second informational signal, based on the first informational signal, a third step of selecting multiple items of correction data that corresponds to the multiple items of informational data selected at the second step, based on the 5 correction data generated at the first step, a fourth step of generating coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs, and a fifth step of generating the informational data 10 of the target position in the second informational signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated at the fourth step, the multiple items of informational data selected at the second step, and the multiple items of correction data selected at the third step.

15 A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute the above method for processing informational signal. A computer-readable medium relative to the invention records the above program.

A device for processing image signal relative to the invention 20 is a device for processing image signal in which a first image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data, the first image signal being obtained by decoding an encoded digital image signal, is converted into a second image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data, the device comprising correction data generation means for generating 25 correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which pixel data of a target position in the second image signal belongs, first data selection means for selecting multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the second image signal, based on the first

image signal, second data selection means for selecting multiple items of correction data that corresponds to the multiple items of pixel data selected by the first data selection means, based on the correction data generated by the correction data generation means,

5 coefficient data generation means for generating coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which pixel data of the target position in the second image signal belongs, and pixel data generation means for generating the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal based

10 on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated by the coefficient data generation means, the multiple items of pixel data selected by the first data selection means, and the multiple items of correction data selected by the second data selection means.

An image display device relative to the invention is an image display device comprising image signal input means for allowing a first image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data to be input, the first image signal being obtained by decoding an encoded digital image signal, image-signal-processing means for converting the first image signal input through the image signal input means into a second image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data and outputting it, and image display means for displaying an image on an image display element thereof, the image being due to the second image signal output from the image-signal-processing means. The image-signal-processing means has same configuration as that of the above apparatus for processing image signal.

In the invention, the first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data is generated by decoding an encoded informational digital signal. As the informational signal, an image signal or an audio signal is considered, for example.

Correction data for correcting an encoding noise that corresponds to the first class to which the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs is generated. For example, the correction data for each of the classes 5 is stored in storage means, so that from this storage means, the correction data that corresponds to the first class is read. This correction data is generated beforehand by using a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal and a teacher signal that corresponds to the second informational signal. This student 10 signal, for example, has been obtained by decoding an informational digital signal obtained by encoding the teacher signal. In such the case, the student signal contains an encoding noise (encoding distortion).

Based on the first informational signal, the multiple items of 15 informational data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal are selected and, based on the above generated correction data, multiple items of the correction data corresponding to the selected items of informational data are selected.

20 Coefficient data, which is used in the estimate equation, corresponding to the second class to which informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs is generated. For example, the second class is the same as the first class. Alternatively, class classification relating to the second 25 class is the one obtained by making class classification relating to said first class finer.

Informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is generated based on the estimate equation by using the multiple items of informational data positioned at the

periphery of the target position in the second informational signal, the multiple items of correction data corresponding to the multiple items of informational data, and the coefficient data corresponding to the second class to which informational data of the target position 5 belongs.

In such a manner, the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is generated based on the estimate equation by using the multiple items of informational data, which are selected based on the first informational signal, positioned at the 10 periphery of the target position in the second informational signal, the multiple items of correction data corresponding to the multiple items of informational data that are selected based on the correction data of the first class to which the target position in the second informational signal belongs, and the coefficient data corresponding 15 to the second class to which informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs, thereby well reducing an encoding noise in the informational signal obtained by decoding the encoded informational digital signal.

An apparatus for processing informational signal relative to 20 the invention is an apparatus for processing informational signal in which a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, is converted into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of 25 informational data, the apparatus comprising correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of a target position in the second informational signal belongs, orthogonal transformation means for

performing orthogonal transformation on informational data among the multiple items of informational data that constitute the first informational signal, the informational data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal,

5 frequency coefficient selection means for selecting plural frequency coefficients each corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second informational signal based on a frequency coefficient obtained by the orthogonal transformation means,

10 correction data selection means for selecting multiple items of correction data corresponding to the plural frequency coefficients selected by the frequency coefficient selection means, based on the correction data generated by the correction data generation means,

15 coefficient data generation means for generating coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs, frequency coefficient generation means for generating a frequency coefficient corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data

20 generated by the coefficient data generation means, the plural frequency coefficients selected by the frequency coefficient selection means, and the multiple items of correction data selected by the correction data selection means, and inverse orthogonal transformation means for performing inverse orthogonal

25 transformation on the frequency coefficient generated by the frequency coefficient generation means to obtain the informational data of the target position in the informational signal.

A method for processing informational signal relative to the invention is a method for processing informational signal in which

a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, is converted into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the method comprising a first step of generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of a target position in the second informational signal belongs, a second step of performing orthogonal transformation on informational data among 5 the multiple items of informational data that constitute the first informational signal, the informational data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal, a third step of selecting plural frequency coefficients each corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second informational signal based on the frequency coefficient obtained at 10 the second step, a fourth step of selecting multiple items of correction data corresponding to the plural frequency coefficients selected at the third step, based on the correction data generated at the first step, a fifth step of generating coefficient data used 15 in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs, a sixth step of generating a frequency coefficient corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal based on the estimate 20 equation by using the coefficient data generated at the fifth step, the plural frequency coefficients selected at the third step, and the multiple items of correction data selected at the fourth step, and a seventh step of performing inverse orthogonal transformation on the 25 frequency coefficient generated at the sixth step to obtain the

informational data of the target position in the second informational signal.

A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute the above method for processing informational signal. A

5 computer-readable medium relative to the invention records the above program.

A device for processing image signal relative to the invention is a device for processing image signal in which a first image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data, the first image signal being

10 obtained by decoding an encoded digital image signal, is converted into a second image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data, the device comprising correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which pixel data of a target position
15 in the second image signal belongs, orthogonal transformation means for performing orthogonal transformation on pixel data among the multiple items of pixel data that constitute the first image signal, the pixel data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the second image signal, frequency coefficient selection means for
20 selecting plural frequency coefficients each corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second image signal based on a frequency coefficient obtained by the orthogonal transformation means, correction data selection means for selecting multiple items of correction data corresponding to the plural frequency coefficients
25 selected by the frequency coefficient selection means, based on the correction data generated by the correction data generation means, coefficient data generation means for generating coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which pixel data of the target position in the second image

signal belongs, frequency coefficient generation means for generating a frequency coefficient corresponding to the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated by the coefficient data generation means, the plural frequency coefficients selected by the frequency coefficient selection means, and the multiple items of correction data selected by the correction data selection means, and inverse orthogonal transformation means for performing inverse orthogonal transformation on the frequency coefficient generated by the frequency coefficient generation means to obtain the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal.

An image display device relative to the invention is an image display device comprising image signal input means for allowing a first image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data to be input, the first image signal being obtained by decoding an encoded digital image signal, image-signal-processing means for converting the first image signal input through the image signal input means into a second image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data and outputting it, and image display means for displaying an image on an image display element thereof, the image being due to the second image signal output from the image-signal-processing means. The image-signal-processing means has same configuration as that of the above apparatus for processing image signal.

In the invention, the first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data is generated by decoding an encoded informational digital signal. As the informational signal, an image signal or an audio signal is considered, for example.

Correction data for correcting an encoding noise that corresponds to the first class to which the informational data of the

target position in the second informational signal belongs is generated. For example, the correction data for each of the classes is stored in storage means, so that from this storage means, the correction data that corresponds to the first class is read. This 5 correction data is generated beforehand by using a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal and a teacher signal that corresponds to the second informational signal. This student signal, for example, has been obtained by decoding an informational digital signal obtained by encoding the teacher signal. In such the 10 case, the student signal contains an encoding noise (encoding distortion).

Of the multiple items of informational data that constitute the first informational signal, informational data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal 15 is subjected to orthogonal transformation (discrete cosine transformation, wavelet transformation, discrete sine transformation, etc.). Based on the frequency coefficient obtained by this orthogonal transformation, the plural frequency coefficients corresponding to the target position in the second informational signal are selected 20 and based on the generated correction data, as describe the above, the multiple items of correction data corresponding to the plural frequency coefficients are selected.

Coefficient data, which is used in the estimate equation, corresponding to the second class to which informational data of the 25 target position in the second informational signal belongs is generated. For example, the second class is the same as the first class. Alternatively, class classification relating to the second class is the one obtained by making class classification relating to said first class finer.

Frequency coefficient corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is generated based on the estimate equation by using the plural frequency coefficients corresponding to the periphery of the target position 5 in the second informational signal, the multiple items of correction data corresponding to the plural frequency coefficients, and the coefficient data corresponding to the second class to which informational data of the target position belongs. The generated frequency coefficient is subject to inverse orthogonal transformation, 10 thereby obtaining the informational data of the target position.

In such a manner, the frequency coefficient corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is generated based on the estimate equation by using the multiple items of informational data, positioned at the 15 periphery of the target position in the second informational signal, which are selected based on the frequency coefficient obtained by performing orthogonal transformation on the informational data, which corresponds to the target position in the output informational signal, among the items of informational data that constitute the first 20 informational signal, the multiple items of correction data corresponding to the multiple items of informational data that are selected based on the correction data of the first class to which the target position in the second informational signal belongs, and the coefficient data corresponding to the second class to which 25 informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs, so that the frequency coefficient is subject to the inverse orthogonal transformation to obtain the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal, thereby well reducing an encoding noise in the informational signal obtained

by decoding the encoded informational digital signal.

An apparatus for processing informational signal relative to the invention is an apparatus for processing informational signal in which a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, is converted into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the apparatus comprising correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of a target position in the second informational signal belongs, data selection means for selecting multiple items of correction data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal based on the correction data generated by the correction data generation means, coefficient data generation means for generating coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs, correction data generation means for generating correction data corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated by the coefficient data generation means and the multiple items of correction data selected by the data selection means, and informational data generation means for performing correction processing by use of the correction data generated by the correction data generation means on the informational data, which corresponds to the target position in the second informational signal, among the multiple items of informational data that constitute the first informational signal to

generate the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal.

A method for processing informational signal relative to the invention is a method for processing informational signal in which

5 a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, is converted into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the method comprising a first step of generating

10 correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of a target position in the second informational signal belongs, a second step of selecting multiple items of correction data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal

15 based on the correction data generated at the first step, a third step of generating coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs, a fourth step of generating correction data

20 corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated at the step third step and the multiple items of correction data selected at the second step, and a fifth step of performing correction processing by use of the correction data

25 generated at the fourth step on informational data, which corresponds to the target position in the second informational signal, among the multiple items of informational data that constitute the first informational signal to generate informational data of the target position in the second informational signal.

A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute the above method for processing informational signal. A computer-readable medium relative to the invention records the above program.

5 A device for processing image signal relative to the invention is a device for processing image signal in which a first image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data, the first image signal being obtained by decoding an encoded digital image signal, is converted into a second image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data,

10 the device comprising correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which pixel data of a target position in the second image signal belongs, data selection means for selecting multiple items of correction data corresponding to a periphery of the

15 target position in the second image signal based on the correction data generated by the correction data generation means, coefficient data generation means for generating coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which the pixel data of the target position in the second

20 image signal belongs, correction data generation means for generating correction data corresponding to the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated by the coefficient data generation means and the multiple items of correction data selected by the data

25 selection means, and pixel data generation means for performing correction processing by use of the correction data generated by the correction data generation means on the pixel data, which corresponds to the target position in the second image signal, among the multiple items of pixel data that constitute the first image signal to generate

the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal.

An image display device relative to the invention is an image display device comprising image signal input means for allowing a first image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data to be input, 5 the first image signal being obtained by decoding an encoded digital image signal, image-signal-processing means for converting the first image signal input through the image signal input means into a second image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data and outputting it, and image display means for displaying an image on an image display 10 element thereof, the image being due to the second image signal output from the image-signal-processing means. The image-signal-processing means has same configuration as that of the above apparatus for processing image signal.

In the invention, the first informational signal comprised of 15 multiple items of informational data is generated by decoding an encoded informational digital signal. As the informational signal, an image signal or an audio signal is considered, for example.

Correction data for correcting an encoding noise that corresponds to the first class to which the informational data of the 20 target position in the second informational signal belongs is generated. For example, the correction data for each of the classes is stored in storage means, so that from this storage means, the correction data that corresponds to the first class is read. This correction data is generated beforehand by using a student signal that 25 corresponds to the first informational signal and a teacher signal that corresponds to the second informational signal. This student signal, for example, has been obtained by decoding an informational digital signal obtained by encoding the teacher signal. In such the case, the student signal contains an encoding noise (encoding

distortion).

Coefficient data, which is used in the estimate equation, corresponding to the second class to which informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs is generated. For example, the second class is the same as the first class. Alternatively, class classification relating to the second class is the one obtained by making class classification relating to said first class finer. As described above, based on the generated correction data, the multiple items of correction data corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second informational signal are generated.

Correction data corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is generated based on the estimate equation by using the multiple items of correction data corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second informational signal and the coefficient data corresponding to the second class to which informational data of the target position belongs.

The second informational data, which corresponds to the target position in the second image signal, among the multiple items of informational data that constitute the first image signal is subject to correction processing by use of the generated correction data as described above to generate the informational data of the target position in the second image signal.

In such a manner, the correction data corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is generated based on the estimate equation by using the correction data of the first class to which the target position in the second informational signal belongs, and coefficient data

corresponding to the second class to which the target position in the second image signal belongs so that the informational data, which corresponds to the target position in the second informational signal, among items of informational data that constitute the first

5 informational signal is corrected using the generated correction data, as described above, to generate the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal, thereby well reducing an encoding noise in the informational signal obtained by decoding the encoded informational digital signal.

10 An apparatus for processing informational signal relative to the invention is an apparatus for processing informational signal in which a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, is converted into

15 a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the apparatus comprising correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of a target position in the second

20 informational signal belongs, orthogonal transformation means for performing orthogonal transformation on informational data among the multiple items of informational data that constitute the first informational signal, the informational data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal,

25 data selection means for selecting multiple items of correction data corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second informational signal, based on the correction data generated by the correction data generation means, coefficient data generation means for generating coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the

coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs, correction data generation means for generating correction data corresponding to the informational data of the target 5 position in the second informational signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated by the coefficient data generation means, and the multiple items of correction data selected by the data selection means, frequency coefficient generation means for generating a frequency coefficient corresponding to the 10 informational data of the target position in the second informational signal by performing correction processing by use of the correction data generated by the correction data generation means on the frequency coefficient obtained by the orthogonal transformation means, and inverse orthogonal transformation means for performing inverse 15 orthogonal transformation on the frequency coefficient generated by the frequency coefficient generation means to obtain the informational data of the target position in the informational signal.

A method for processing informational signal relative to the invention is a method for processing informational signal in which 20 a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, is converted into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the method comprising a first step of generating 25 correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of a target position in the second informational signal belongs, a second step of performing orthogonal transformation on informational data among the multiple items of informational data that constitute the first

informational signal, the informational data corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second informational signal, a third step of selecting multiple items of correction data corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second informational signal, based on the correction data generated at the first step, a fourth step of generating such coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs, a fifth step of generating correction data corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated at the fourth step and the multiple items of correction data selected at the third step, a sixth step of generating a frequency coefficient corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal by performing correction processing by use of the correction data generated at the fifth step on the frequency coefficient obtained at the second step, and a seventh step of performing inverse orthogonal transformation on the frequency coefficient generated at the sixth step to obtain the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal.

A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute the above method for processing informational signal. A computer-readable medium relative to the invention records the above program.

A device for processing image signal relative to the invention is a device for processing image signal in which a first image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data, the first image signal being obtained by decoding an encoded digital image signal, is converted

into a second image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data, the device comprising correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which pixel data of a target position

5 in the second image signal belongs, orthogonal transformation means for performing orthogonal transformation on pixel data among the multiple items of pixel data that constitute the first image signal, the pixel data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the second image signal, data selection means for selecting multiple

10 items of correction data corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second image signal, based on the correction data generated by the correction data generation means, coefficient data generation means for generating coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which

15 pixel data of the target position in the second image signal belongs, correction data generation means for generating correction data corresponding to the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated by the coefficient data generation means and the

20 multiple items of correction data selected by the data selection means, frequency coefficient generation means for generating a frequency coefficient corresponding to the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal by performing correction processing by use of the correction data generated by the correction data generation

25 means on the frequency coefficient obtained by the orthogonal transformation means, and inverse orthogonal transformation means for performing inverse orthogonal transformation on the frequency coefficient generated by the frequency coefficient generation means to obtain the pixel data of the target position in the second image

signal.

An image display device relative to the invention is an image display device comprising image signal input means for allowing a first image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data to be input, 5 the first image signal being obtained by decoding an encoded digital image signal, image-signal-processing means for converting the first image signal input through the image signal input means into a second image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data and outputting it, and image display means for displaying an image on an image display 10 element thereof, the image being due to the second image signal output from the image-signal-processing means. The image-signal-processing means has same configuration as that of the above apparatus for processing image signal.

In the invention, the first informational signal comprised of 15 multiple items of informational data is generated by decoding an encoded informational digital signal. As the informational signal, an image signal or an audio signal is considered, for example.

Correction data for correcting an encoding noise that corresponds to the first class to which the informational data of the 20 target position in the second informational signal belongs is generated. For example, the correction data for each of the classes is stored in storage means, so that from this storage means, the correction data that corresponds to the first class is read. This correction data is generated beforehand by using a student signal that 25 corresponds to the first informational signal and a teacher signal that corresponds to the second informational signal. This student signal, for example, has been obtained by decoding an informational digital signal obtained by encoding the teacher signal. In such the case, the student signal contains an encoding noise (encoding

distortion).

Coefficient data, which is used in the estimate equation, corresponding to the second class to which informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs is 5 generated. For example, the second class is the same as the first class. Alternatively, class classification relating to the second class is the one obtained by making class classification relating to said first class finer. As described above, based on the generated 10 correction data, the multiple items of correction data corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second informational signal are generated.

Correction data corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is generated based 15 on the estimate equation by using the multiple items of correction data corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second informational signal and the coefficient data corresponding to the second class to which informational data of the target position belongs.

Of the multiple items of informational data that constitute the 20 first informational signal, pixel data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal is subjected to orthogonal transformation (discrete cosine transformation, wavelet transformation, discrete sine transformation, etc.). On the frequency coefficient obtained by this orthogonal transformation, the 25 correction processing using the generated correction data, as described above, is performed to generate frequency coefficient corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal. The generated frequency coefficient is then subject to inverse orthogonal transformation, thereby obtaining

the informational data of the target position.

In such a manner, the correction data corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is generated based on the estimate equation by using the 5 correction data of the first class to which the target position in the second informational signal belongs, and coefficient data corresponding to the second class to which the target position in the second image signal belongs so that the frequency coefficient obtained by performing orthogonal transformation on the informational data, 10 which corresponds to the target position in the output informational signal, among items of informational data that constitute the first informational signal is corrected using the generated correction data, as described above, to generate the frequency coefficient corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal, and to perform inverse orthogonal 15 transformation on the frequency coefficient thus generated and obtain the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal, thereby well reducing an encoding noise in the informational signal obtained by decoding the encoded informational 20 digital signal.

An apparatus for processing informational signal relative to the invention is an apparatus for processing informational signal in which a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by 25 decoding an encoded informational digital signal, is converted into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the apparatus comprising correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class

to which informational data of a target position in the second informational signal belongs, data selection means for selecting multiple items of informational data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal, based on the first 5 informational signal, coefficient data generation means for generating coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs, data generation means for generating data 10 corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated by the coefficient data generation means, and the multiple items of informational data selected by the data selection means, informational data generation means for 15 generating the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal by performing correction processing by use of the correction data generated by the correction data generation means on the data generated by the data generation means.

A method for processing informational signal relative to the 20 invention is a method for processing informational signal in which a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, is converted into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of 25 informational data, the method comprising a first step of generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of a target position in the second informational signal belongs, a second step of selecting multiple items of informational data positioned in a

periphery of the target position in the second informational signal, based on the first informational signal, a third step of generating coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which informational data of the 5 target position in the second informational signal belongs, a fourth step of generating data corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated at the third step and the multiple items of informational data selected at the 10 second step, and a fifth step of generating the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal by performing correction processing by use of the correction data generated at the first step on the data generated at the fourth step.

15 A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute the above method for processing informational signal. A computer-readable medium relative to the invention records the above program.

20 A device for processing image signal relative to the invention is a device for processing image signal in which a first image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data, the first image signal being obtained by decoding an encoded digital image signal, is converted into a second image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data, the device comprising correction data generation means for generating 25 correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which pixel data of a target position in the second image signal belongs, data selection means for selecting multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the second image signal, based on the first image signal, coefficient data generation means for generating coefficient data used

in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which pixel data of the target position in the second image signal belongs, data generation means for generating data corresponding to the pixel data of the target position in the second 5 image signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated by the coefficient data generation means and the multiple items of pixel data selected by the data selection means, and pixel data generation means for generating the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal by performing correction 10 processing by use of the correction data generated by the correction data generation means on the data generated by the data generation means.

An image display device relative to the invention is an image display device comprising image signal input means for allowing a first 15 image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data to be input, the first image signal being obtained by decoding an encoded digital image signal, image-signal-processing means for converting the first image signal input through the image signal input means into a second image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data and outputting 20 it, and image display means for displaying an image on an image display element thereof, the image being due to the second image signal output from the image-signal-processing means. The image-signal-processing means has same configuration as that of the above apparatus for processing image signal.

25 In the invention, the first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data is generated by decoding an encoded informational digital signal. As the informational signal, an image signal or an audio signal is considered, for example.

Correction data for correcting an encoding noise that

corresponds to the first class to which the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs is generated. For example, the correction data for each of the classes is stored in storage means, so that from this storage means, the 5 correction data that corresponds to the first class is read. This correction data is generated beforehand by using a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal and a teacher signal that corresponds to the second informational signal. This student signal, for example, has been obtained by decoding an informational 10 digital signal obtained by encoding the teacher signal. In such the case, the student signal contains an encoding noise (encoding distortion).

Coefficient data, which is used in the estimate equation, corresponding to the second class to which informational data of the 15 target position in the second informational signal belongs is generated. For example, the second class is the same as the first class. Alternatively, class classification relating to the second class is the one obtained by making class classification relating to said first class finer.

20 Correction data corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is generated based on the estimate equation by using the multiple items of correction data corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second informational signal and the coefficient data corresponding 25 to the second class to which informational data of the target position belongs.

Based on the first informational signal, multiple items of informational data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal are selected. The data

corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is generated based on the estimate equation by using the multiple items of informational data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal and the coefficient data corresponding to the second class to which informational data of the target position belongs. Correction processing using the correction data generated as described above is performed on the data, thereby obtaining the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal.

10 In such a manner, the data corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is generated based on the estimate equation by using the multiple items of informational data, which are selected based on the first informational signal, positioned in a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal, and coefficient data corresponding to the second class to which the target position in the second image signal belongs so that the data is corrected using the correction data of the first class to which the target position in the second informational signal belongs to generate the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal, thereby well reducing an encoding noise in the informational signal obtained by decoding the encoded informational digital signal.

20 An apparatus for processing informational signal relative to the invention is an apparatus for processing informational signal in which a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, is converted into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the apparatus comprising correction data

generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of a target position in the second informational signal belongs, orthogonal transformation means for 5 performing orthogonal transformation on informational data among the multiple items of informational data that constitute the first informational signal, the informational data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal, frequency coefficient selection means for selecting plural frequency 10 coefficients each corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second informational signal based on a frequency coefficient obtained by the orthogonal transformation means, coefficient data generation means for generating coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second 15 class to which informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs, data generation means for generating data corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated by the coefficient data 20 generation means and the plural frequency coefficients selected by the frequency coefficient selection means, frequency coefficient generation means for generating a frequency coefficient corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal by performing correction processing by use of 25 the correction data generated by the correction data generation means on the data generated by the data generation means, and inverse orthogonal transformation means for performing inverse orthogonal transformation on the frequency coefficient generated by the frequency coefficient generation means to obtain the informational data of the

target position in the second informational signal.

A method for processing informational signal relative to the invention is a method for processing informational signal in which a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, is converted into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the method comprising a first step of generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of a target position in the second informational signal belongs, a second step of performing orthogonal transformation on informational data among the multiple items of informational data that constitute the first informational signal, the informational data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal, a third step of selecting plural frequency coefficients each corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second informational signal based on a frequency coefficient obtained by the orthogonal transformation means, a fourth step of generating coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs, a fifth step of generating data corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated at the fourth step and the plural frequency coefficients selected at the third step, a sixth step of generating a frequency coefficient corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal by performing correction processing by use of

the correction data produced at the first step on the data generated at the fifth step, and a seventh step of performing inverse orthogonal transformation on the frequency coefficient generated at the sixth step to obtain the informational data of the target position in the 5 second informational signal.

A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute the above method for processing informational signal. A computer-readable medium relative to the invention records the above program.

10 A device for processing image signal relative to the invention is a device for processing image signal in which a first image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data, the first image signal being obtained by decoding an encoded digital image signal, is converted into a second image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data, 15 the device comprising correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which pixel data of a target position in the second image signal belongs, orthogonal transformation means for performing orthogonal transformation on pixel data among the 20 multiple items of pixel data that constitute the first image signal, the pixel data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the second image signal, frequency coefficient selection means for selecting plural frequency coefficients each corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second image signal based on 25 a frequency coefficient obtained by the orthogonal transformation means, coefficient data generation means for generating coefficient data used in an estimate equation, the coefficient data corresponding to a second class to which pixel data of the target position in the second image signal belongs, data generation means for generating data

corresponding to the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal based on the estimate equation by using the coefficient data generated by the coefficient data generation means and the plural frequency coefficients selected by the frequency coefficient

5 selection means, frequency coefficient generation means for generating a frequency coefficient corresponding to the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal by performing correction processing by use of the correction data generated by the correction data generation means on the data generated by the data 10 generation means, and inverse orthogonal transformation means for performing inverse orthogonal transformation on the frequency coefficient generated by the frequency coefficient generation means to obtain the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal.

15 An image display device relative to the invention is an image display device comprising image signal input means for allowing a first image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data to be input, the first image signal being obtained by decoding an encoded digital image signal, image-signal-processing means for converting the first 20 image signal input through the image signal input means into a second image signal comprised of multiple items of pixel data and outputting it, and image display means for displaying an image on an image display element thereof, the image being due to the second image signal output from the image-signal-processing means. The image-signal-processing 25 means has same configuration as that of the above apparatus for processing image signal.

In the invention, the first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data is generated by decoding an encoded informational digital signal. As the informational signal,

an image signal or an audio signal is considered, for example.

Correction data for correcting an encoding noise that corresponds to the first class to which the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs is 5 generated. For example, the correction data for each of the classes is stored in storage means, so that from this storage means, the correction data that corresponds to the first class is read. This correction data is generated beforehand by using a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal and a teacher signal 10 that corresponds to the second informational signal. This student signal, for example, has been obtained by decoding an informational digital signal obtained by encoding the teacher signal. In such the case, the student signal contains an encoding noise (encoding distortion).

15 Coefficient data, which is used in the estimate equation, corresponding to the second class to which informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs is generated. For example, the second class is the same as the first class. Alternatively, class classification relating to the second 20 class is the one obtained by making class classification relating to said first class finer. As described above, based on the generated correction data, the multiple items of correction data corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second informational signal are generated.

25 Of the multiple items of informational data that constitute the first informational signal, pixel data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the second informational signal is subjected to orthogonal transformation (discrete cosine transformation, wavelet transformation, discrete sine transformation, etc.). Based

on the frequency coefficient obtained by this orthogonal transformation, the plural frequency coefficients corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second informational signal are selected.

5 The data corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is generated based on the estimate equation by using the plural frequency coefficients corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the second informational signal and the coefficient data corresponding to the 10 second class to which informational data of the target position belongs. The generated data is then subject to correction processing using the correction data generated as described above, thereby generating the frequency coefficient corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal. The generated 15 frequency coefficient is then subject to inverse orthogonal transformation, thereby obtaining the informational data of the target position.

 In such a manner, the data corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is 20 generated based on the estimate equation by using the plural frequency coefficients, which positioned in the periphery of the target position in the second informational signal, selected based on the frequency coefficient obtained by performing orthogonal transformation on informational data, which corresponds to the target position in the 25 output informational signal, among the items of informational data that constitute the first informational signal and the coefficient data corresponding to the second class to which the target position belongs, so that the data is subject to the correction by use of the correction data of the first class to which the target position in

the second informational signal belongs to generate frequency coefficient corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal and to perform inverse orthogonal transformation on the frequency coefficient and obtain the 5 informational data of the target position in the second informational signal, thereby well reducing an encoding noise in the informational signal obtained by decoding the encoded informational digital signal.

A unit for generating coefficient data relative to the invention is a unit for generating coefficient data for an estimate equation 10 used when converting a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the unit comprising decoding means for decoding 15 the informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class 20 to which informational data of a target position in the teacher signal belongs, correction means for performing correction processing by use of the correction data generated by the correction data generation means on informational data among multiple items of informational data that constitute the student signal output from the decoding means, 25 the informational data corresponding to the target position in the teacher signal, data selection means for selecting multiple items of informational data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal, based on the informational data corrected by the correction means, and coefficient data generation means for

generating the coefficient data for each class by using a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, the multiple items of informational data selected by the data selection means, and the informational data of the target 5 position in the teacher signal.

A method for generating coefficient data relative to the invention is a method for generating coefficient data for an estimate equation used when converting a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational 10 signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the method comprising a first step of decoding the informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student 15 signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, a second step of generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of a target position in the teacher signal belongs, a third step of performing correction processing by use of the 20 correction data generated at the second step on informational data among multiple items of informational data that constitute the student signal obtained at the first step, the informational data corresponding to the target position in the teacher signal, a fourth step of selecting multiple items of informational data positioned in 25 a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal, based on the informational data corrected at the third step, and a fifth step of generating the coefficient data for each class by using a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, the multiple items of informational data

selected at the fourth step, and the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal.

A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute the above method for generating coefficient data. A computer-
5 readable medium relative to the invention records the above program.

In the invention, the first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data is generated by decoding an encoded informational digital signal. This invention relates to a generation of coefficient data for an estimate equation used when
10 converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data.

The student signal corresponding to the first informational signal is generated by further decoding an encoded informational digital signal that is generated by encoding the teacher signal that corresponds to the second informational signal. Correction data for correcting an encoding noise that corresponds to the first class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs is generated. For example, the correction data for
15 each of the classes is stored in storage means, so that from this storage means, the correction data that corresponds to the first class is read. This correction data is generated beforehand by using the student signal and the teacher signal.

Of the multiple items of informational data that constitute the student signal, informational data corresponding to a target position in the teacher signal is subjected to correction processing by use
25 of the correction data generated as described above. Based on the corrected informational data, the multiple items of informational data positioned in the periphery of the target position in the teacher

signal are selected.

The coefficient data is generated for each class by using a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, the selected multiple items of

5 informational data, and the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal. For example, the second class is the same as the first class. Alternatively, class classification relating to the second class is the one obtained by making class classification relating to said first class finer.

10 Although, in such a manner, the coefficient data for the estimate equation used when converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal is generated, the items of coefficient data corresponding to the second class to which the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs are 15 selectively used when converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal so that based on the estimate equation, the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is generated.

Thus, in a case where the first informational signal is converted 20 into the second informational signal using the estimate equation, of an encoding noise in the informational signal obtained by decoding the encoded informational digital signal, the one yet remained by the correction processing by use of the correction data is well reduced.

A unit for generating coefficient data relative to the invention 25 is a unit for generating coefficient data for an estimate equation used when converting a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of

informational data, the unit comprising decoding means for decoding the informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, correction 5 data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of a target position in the teacher signal belongs, first orthogonal transformation means for performing orthogonal transformation on informational data among the multiple 10 items of informational data that constitute the student signal output from the decoding means, the informational data corresponding to the target position in the teacher signal, to obtain a first frequency coefficient, correction means for performing correction processing by use of the correction data generated by the correction data generation 15 means on the frequency coefficient obtained by the first orthogonal transformation means, frequency coefficient selection means for selecting plural frequency coefficients each corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal based on the frequency coefficient corrected by the correction means, second 20 orthogonal transformation means for performing orthogonal transformation on the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal, to obtain a second frequency coefficient, and coefficient data generation means for generating the coefficient data for each class by using a second class to which the informational data 25 of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, the plural frequency coefficients selected by the frequency selection means, and the second frequency coefficient obtained by the second orthogonal transformation means.

A method for generating coefficient data relative to the

invention is a method for generating coefficient data for an estimate equation used when converting a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital 5 signal, into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the method comprising a first step of decoding the informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, a second 10 step of generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of a target position in the teacher signal belongs, a third step of performing orthogonal transformation on informational data among the multiple items of informational data that constitute 15 the student signal, the multiple items of informational data being generated at the first step, the informational data corresponding to the target position in the teacher signal, to obtain a first frequency coefficient, a fourth step of performing correction processing by use of the correction data generated at the second step on the frequency 20 coefficient obtained at the third step, a fifth step of selecting plural frequency coefficients each corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal based on the frequency coefficient corrected at the fourth step, a sixth step of performing orthogonal transformation on the informational data of the target 25 position in the teacher signal, to obtain a second frequency coefficient, and a seventh step of generating the coefficient data for each class by using a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, the plural frequency coefficients selected at the fifth step, and the second

frequency coefficient obtained at the sixth step.

A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute the above method for generating coefficient data. A computer-readable medium relative to the invention records the above program.

5 In the invention, the first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data is generated by decoding an encoded informational digital signal. This invention relates to a generation of coefficient data for an estimate equation used when converting the first informational signal into the second
10 informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data.

The student signal corresponding to the first informational signal is generated by further decoding an encoded informational digital signal that is generated by encoding the teacher signal that
15 corresponds to the second informational signal. Correction data for correcting an encoding noise that corresponds to the first class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs is generated. For example, the correction data for each of the classes is stored in storage means, so that from this storage
20 means, the correction data that corresponds to the first class is read. This correction data is generated beforehand by using the student signal and the teacher signal.

Of the multiple items of informational data that constitute the student signal, informational data corresponding to a periphery of
25 the target position in the teacher signal is subjected to orthogonal transformation. On the frequency coefficient obtained by the orthogonal transformation, correction processing by use of the correction data generated as described above is performed. Based on the corrected frequency coefficient, the plural frequency

coefficients corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the teacher signal are selected.

The coefficient data is generated for each class by using a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, the selected plural frequency coefficients, and the frequency coefficient obtained by performing orthogonal transformation on informational data of the target position in the teacher signal. For example, the second class is the same as the first class. Alternatively, class classification relating to the second class is the one obtained by making class classification relating to said first class finer.

Although, in such a manner, the coefficient data for the estimate equation used when converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal is generated, the items of coefficient data corresponding to the second class to which the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs are selectively used when converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal so that based on the estimate equation, the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is generated.

Thus, in a case where the first informational signal is converted into the second informational signal using the estimate equation, of an encoding noise in the informational signal obtained by decoding the encoded informational digital signal, the one yet remained by the correction processing by use of the correction data is well reduced.

A unit for generating coefficient data relative to the invention is a unit for generating coefficient data for an estimate equation used when converting a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal

being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the unit comprising decoding means for decoding the informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal

5 corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of a target position in the teacher signal

10 belongs, first data selection means for selecting multiple items of informational data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal based on the student signal output from the decoding means, second data selection means for selecting multiple items of correction data that correspond to the multiple items of informational data selected by the first data selection means based

15 on the correction data generated by the correction data generated means, and coefficient data generation means for generating the coefficient data for each class by using a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, the multiple

20 items of informational data selected by the first data selection means, the multiple items of correction data selected by the second data selection means, and the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal.

A method for generating coefficient data relative to the

25 invention is a method for generating coefficient data for an estimate equation used when converting a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items

of informational data, the method comprising a first step of decoding the informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, a second 5 step of generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of a target position in the teacher signal belongs, a third step of selecting multiple items of informational data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal 10 based on the student signal obtained at the first step, a fourth step of selecting multiple items of correction data that correspond to the multiple items of informational data selected at the third step based on the correction data generated at the second step, and a fifth step of generating the coefficient data for each class by using a second 15 class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, the multiple items of informational data selected at the third step, the multiple items of correction data selected at the fourth step, and the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal.

20 A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute the above method for generating coefficient data. A computer-readable medium relative to the invention records the above program.

25 In the invention, the first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data is generated by decoding an encoded informational digital signal. This invention relates to a generation of coefficient data for an estimate equation used when converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data.

The student signal corresponding to the first informational signal is generated by further decoding an encoded informational digital signal that is generated by encoding the teacher signal that corresponds to the second informational signal. Correction data for 5 correcting an encoding noise that corresponds to the first class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs is generated. For example, the correction data for each of the classes is stored in storage means, so that from this storage means, the correction data that corresponds to the first class is read. 10 This correction data is generated beforehand by using the student signal and the teacher signal.

Based on the student signal, the multiple items of informational data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal are selected and based on the correction data generated as 15 described above, the multiple items of the correction data corresponding to the selected multiple items of informational data are selected.

The coefficient data is generated for each class by using a second class to which the informational data of the target position 20 in the teacher signal belongs, the selected multiple items of informational data, the selected multiple items of correction data, and the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal. For example, the second class is the same as the first class.

Alternatively, class classification relating to the second class is 25 the one obtained by making class classification relating to said first class finer.

Although, in such a manner, the coefficient data for the estimate equation used when converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal is generated, the items of coefficient

data corresponding to the second class to which the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs are selectively used when converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal so that based on the estimate equation,

5 the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is generated.

Thus, in a case where the first informational signal is converted into the second informational signal using the estimate equation, of an encoding noise in the informational signal obtained by decoding 10 the encoded informational digital signal, the one yet remained by the correction processing by use of the correction data is well reduced.

A unit for generating coefficient data relative to the invention is a unit for generating coefficient data for an estimate equation used when converting a first informational signal comprised of 15 multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the unit comprising decoding means for decoding the informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal 20 corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of a target position in the teacher signal 25 belongs, first orthogonal transformation means for performing orthogonal transformation on informational data among the multiple items of informational data that constitute the student signal output from the decoding means, the informational data corresponding to the target position in the teacher signal, to obtain a first frequency

coefficient, frequency coefficient selection means for selecting plural frequency coefficients that correspond to a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal based on the frequency coefficient obtained by the first orthogonal transformation means,

5 correction data selection means for selecting multiple items of correction data that correspond to the plural frequency coefficients selected by the frequency coefficient selection means, based on the correction data generated by the correction data generation means, second orthogonal transformation means for performing orthogonal

10 transformation on informational data of the target position in the teacher signal, to obtain a second frequency coefficient, and coefficient data generation means for generating the coefficient data for each class by using a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, the plural

15 frequency coefficients selected by the frequency selection means, the multiple items of correction data selected by the correction data selection means, and the second frequency coefficient obtained by the second orthogonal transformation means.

A method for generating coefficient data relative to the

20 invention is a method for generating coefficient data for an estimate equation used when converting a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items

25 of informational data, the method comprising a first step of decoding the informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, a second step of generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise,

the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of a target position in the teacher signal belongs, a third step of performing orthogonal transformation on informational data among the multiple items of informational data that constitute 5 the student signal, the multiple items of informational data being obtained at the first step, the informational data corresponding to the target position in the teacher signal, to obtain a first frequency coefficient, a fourth step of selecting plural frequency coefficients that correspond to a periphery of the target position in the teacher 10 signal based on the frequency coefficient obtained at the third step, a fifth step of selecting multiple items of correction data that correspond to the plural frequency coefficients selected at the fourth step based on the correction data generated at the second step, a sixth step of performing orthogonal transformation on informational data 15 of the target position in the teacher signal, to obtain a second frequency coefficient, and a seventh step of generating the coefficient data for each class by using a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, the plural frequency coefficients selected at the fourth step, the 20 multiple items of correction data selected at the fifth step, and the second frequency coefficient obtained at the sixth step.

A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute the above method for generating coefficient data. A computer-readable medium relative to the invention records the above program.

25 In the invention, the first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data is generated by decoding an encoded informational digital signal. This invention relates to a generation of coefficient data for an estimate equation used when converting the first informational signal into the second

informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data.

The student signal corresponding to the first informational signal is generated by further decoding an encoded informational signal that is generated by encoding the teacher signal that corresponds to the second informational signal. Correction data for 5 correcting an encoding noise that corresponds to the first class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs is generated. For example, the correction data for 10 each of the classes is stored in storage means, so that from this storage means, the correction data that corresponds to the first class is read. This correction data is generated beforehand by using the student signal and the teacher signal.

Of the multiple items of informational data that constitute the 15 student signal, informational data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal is subjected to orthogonal transformation. Based on the frequency coefficient obtained by the orthogonal transformation, the plural frequency coefficients corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the teacher 20 signal are selected, and based on the correction data generated as described above, the multiple items of correction data corresponding to the selected plural frequency coefficients are selected.

The coefficient data is generated for each class by using a second class to which the informational data of the target position 25 in the teacher signal belongs, the selected multiple items of correction data, and the frequency coefficient obtained by performing orthogonal transformation on informational data of the target position in the teacher signal. For example, the second class is the same as the first class. Alternatively, class classification relating to the

second class is the one obtained by making class classification relating to said first class finer.

Although, in such a manner, the coefficient data for the estimate equation used when converting the first informational signal into the 5 second informational signal is generated, the items of coefficient data corresponding to the second class to which the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs are selectively used when converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal so that based on the estimate equation, 10 the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is generated.

Thus, in a case where the first informational signal is converted into the second informational signal using the estimate equation, of an encoding noise in the informational signal obtained by decoding 15 the encoded informational digital signal, the one yet remained by the correction processing by use of the correction data is well reduced.

A unit for generating coefficient data relative to the invention is a unit for generating coefficient data for an estimate equation used when converting a first informational signal comprised of 20 multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the unit comprising decoding means for decoding the informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal 25 corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, subtraction means for performing subtraction processing by use of informational data among multiple items of informational data that constitute the student signal, the informational data corresponding to a target

position, on informational data of the target position in the teacher signal, correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which the informational data of the

5 target position in the teacher signal belongs, data selection means for selecting multiple items of correction data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal, based on the correction data generated by the correction data generation means, and coefficient data generation means for generating the coefficient

10 data for each class by using a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, the multiple items of correction data selected by the data selection means, and output data of the subtraction means corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal.

15 A method for generating coefficient data relative to the invention is a method for generating coefficient data for an estimate equation used when converting a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital

20 signal, into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the method comprising a first step of decoding the informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, a second

25 step of performing subtraction processing by use of informational data among multiple items of informational data that constitute the student signal, the informational data corresponding to a target position, on informational data of the target position in the teacher signal, a third step of generating correction data for correcting a encoding

noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, a fourth step of selecting multiple items of correction data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal, based on the correction data generated at the third step, and a fifth step of generating the coefficient data for each class by using a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, the multiple items of correction data selected at the fourth step, and data obtained at the second step corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal.

A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute the above method for generating coefficient data. A computer-readable medium relative to the invention records the above program.

In the invention, the first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data is generated by decoding an encoded informational digital signal. This invention relates to a generation of coefficient data for an estimate equation used when converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data.

The student signal corresponding to the first informational signal is generated by further decoding an encoded informational digital signal that is generated by encoding the teacher signal that corresponds to the second informational signal. Correction data for correcting an encoding noise that corresponds to the first class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs is generated. For example, the correction data for each of the classes is stored in storage means, so that from this storage

means, the correction data that corresponds to the first class is read. This correction data is generated beforehand by using the student signal and the teacher signal.

Subtraction processing by use of informational data among 5 multiple items of informational data that constitute the student signal, the informational data corresponding to the target position, is performed on informational data of the target position in the teacher signal. Based on the correction data generated as described above, the multiple items of correction data corresponding to a 10 periphery of the target position in the teacher signal are selected.

The coefficient data is generated for each class by using a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, the selected multiple items of correction data, and the subtraction data corresponding to the 15 informational data of the target position in the teacher signal. For example, the second class is the same as the first class.

Alternatively, class classification relating to the second class is the one obtained by making class classification relating to said first class finer.

20 Although, in such a manner, the coefficient data for the estimate equation used when converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal is generated, the items of coefficient data corresponding to the second class to which the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs are 25 selectively used when converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal so that based on the estimate equation, the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is generated.

Thus, in a case where the first informational signal is converted

into the second informational signal using the estimate equation, of an encoding noise in the informational signal obtained by decoding the encoded informational digital signal, the one yet remained by the correction processing by use of the correction data is well reduced.

5 A unit for generating coefficient data relative to the invention is a unit for generating coefficient data for an estimate equation used when converting a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal,

10 into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the unit comprising decoding means for decoding the informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, first

15 orthogonal transformation means for performing orthogonal transformation on informational data of the target position in the teacher signal, to obtain a first frequency coefficient, second orthogonal transformation means for performing orthogonal transformation on informational data among multiple items of

20 informational data that constitute the student signal, the informational data corresponding to the target position, to obtain a second frequency coefficient, subtraction means for performing subtraction processing by use of the second frequency coefficient obtained by the second orthogonal transformation means on the first

25 frequency coefficient obtained by the first orthogonal transformation means, correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, data selection means for selecting

multiple items of correction data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal, based on the correction data generated by the correction data generation means, and coefficient data generation means for generating the coefficient data for each

5 class by using a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, the multiple items of correction data selected by the data selection means, and output data of the subtraction means corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal.

10 A method for generating coefficient data relative to the invention is a method for generating coefficient data for an estimate equation used when converting a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the method comprising a first step of decoding the informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, a second 15 step of performing orthogonal transformation on informational data of a target position in the teacher signal, to obtain a first frequency coefficient, a third step of performing orthogonal transformation on informational data among multiple items of informational data that constitute the student signal, the informational data corresponding to the target position, to obtain a second frequency coefficient, a fourth step of performing subtraction processing by use of the second frequency coefficient obtained at the third step, on the first frequency coefficient obtained at the second step, a fifth step of 20 generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the 25

correction data corresponding to a first class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, a sixth step of selecting multiple items of correction data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal, based on the correction data generated at the fifth step, and a seventh step of generating the coefficient data for each class by using a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, the multiple items of correction data selected at the sixth step, and data obtained at the 10 fourth step corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal.

A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute the above method for generating coefficient data. A computer-readable medium relative to the invention records the above program.

15 In the invention, the first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data is generated by decoding an encoded informational digital signal. This invention relates to a generation of coefficient data for an estimate equation used when converting the first informational signal into the second 20 informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data.

The student signal corresponding to the first informational signal is generated by further decoding an encoded informational digital signal that is generated by encoding the teacher signal that 25 corresponds to the second informational signal. Correction data for correcting an encoding noise that corresponds to the first class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs is generated. For example, the correction data for each of the classes is stored in storage means, so that from this storage

means, the correction data that corresponds to the first class is read. This correction data is generated beforehand by using the student signal and the teacher signal.

Subtraction processing by use of frequency coefficient obtained 5 by performing orthogonal transformation on informational data among multiple items of informational data that constitute the student signal, the informational data corresponding to the target position, is performed on frequency coefficient obtained by performing orthogonal transformation on the informational data of the target 10 position in the teacher signal. Based on the correction data generated as described above, the multiple items of correction data corresponding to a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal are selected.

The coefficient data is generated for each class by using a 15 second class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, the selected multiple items of correction data, and the subtraction data corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal. For example, the second class is the same as the first class.

20 Alternatively, class classification relating to the second class is the one obtained by making class classification relating to said first class finer.

Although, in such a manner, the coefficient data for the estimate equation used when converting the first informational signal into the 25 second informational signal is generated, the items of coefficient data corresponding to the second class to which the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs are selectively used when converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal so that based on the estimate equation,

the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is generated.

Thus, in a case where the first informational signal is converted into the second informational signal using the estimate equation, of 5 an encoding noise in the informational signal obtained by decoding the encoded informational digital signal, the one yet remained by the correction processing by use of the correction data is well reduced.

A unit for generating coefficient data relative to the invention is a unit for generating coefficient data for an estimate equation 10 used when converting a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the unit comprising decoding means for decoding 15 the informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class 20 to which informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, subtraction means for performing subtraction processing by use of correction data generated by the correction data generation means on informational data of the target position in the teacher signal, data selection means for selecting multiple items of 25 informational data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal, based on the student signal output from the decoding means, and coefficient data generation means for generating the coefficient data for each class by using a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal

belongs, the multiple items of information data selected by the data selection means, and output data of the subtraction means corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal.

5 A method for generating coefficient data relative to the invention is a method for generating coefficient data for an estimate equation used when converting a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital

10 signal, into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the method comprising a first step of decoding the informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, a second

15 step of generating correction data for correcting an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of a target position in the teacher signal belongs, a third step of performing subtraction processing by use of the correction data generated at the second step, on the informational

20 data of the target position in the teacher signal, a fourth step of selecting multiple items of informational data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal, based on the student signal obtained at the first step, and a fifth step of generating the coefficient data for each class by using a second class

25 to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, the multiple items of informational data selected at the fourth step, and data obtained at the third step corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal.

A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute

the above method for generating coefficient data. A computer-readable medium relative to the invention records the above program.

In the invention, the first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data is generated by decoding an 5 encoded informational digital signal. This invention relates to a generation of coefficient data for an estimate equation used when converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data.

10 The student signal corresponding to the first informational signal is generated by further decoding an encoded informational digital signal that is generated by encoding the teacher signal that corresponds to the second informational signal. Correction data for 15 correcting an encoding noise that corresponds to the first class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs is generated. For example, the correction data for each of the classes is stored in storage means, so that from this storage means, the correction data that corresponds to the first class is read. 20 This correction data is generated beforehand by using the student signal and the teacher signal.

Subtraction processing by use of the correction data generated as described above is performed on the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal. Based on the student signal, the multiple items of informational data positioned in a periphery of the 25 target position in the teacher signal are selected.

The coefficient data is generated for each class by using a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, the selected multiple items of informational data, and the subtraction data corresponding to the

informational data of the target position in the teacher signal. For example, the second class is the same as the first class.

Alternatively, class classification relating to the second class is the one obtained by making class classification relating to said first 5 class finer.

Although, in such a manner, the coefficient data for the estimate equation used when converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal is generated, the items of coefficient data corresponding to the second class to which the informational data 10 of the target position in the second informational signal belongs are selectively used when converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal so that based on the estimate equation, the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is generated.

15 Thus, in a case where the first informational signal is converted into the second informational signal using the estimate equation, of an encoding noise in the informational signal obtained by decoding the encoded informational digital signal, the one yet remained by the correction processing by use of the correction data is well reduced.

20 A unit for generating coefficient data relative to the invention is a unit for generating coefficient data for an estimate equation used when converting a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, 25 into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the unit comprising decoding means for decoding the informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, first

orthogonal transformation means for performing orthogonal transformation on informational data of a target position in the teacher signal, to obtain a first frequency coefficient, correction data generation means for generating correction data for correcting 5 an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, subtraction means for performing subtraction processing by use of the correction data generated by the correction data generation means on frequency coefficient obtained by the first 10 orthogonal transformation means, second orthogonal transformation means for performing orthogonal transformation on informational data among the multiple items of informational data that constitute the student signal output from the decoding means, the informational data corresponding to the target position in the teacher signal, to obtain 15 a second frequency coefficient, frequency coefficient selection means for selecting plural frequency coefficients that correspond to a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal based on the frequency coefficient obtained by the second orthogonal transformation means, and coefficient data generation means for 20 generating the coefficient data for each class by using a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, the plural frequency coefficients selected by the frequency selection means, output data of the subtraction means corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the 25 teacher signal.

A method for generating coefficient data relative to the invention is a method for generating coefficient data for an estimate equation used when converting a first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the first informational

signal being obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal, into a second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data, the method comprising a first step of decoding the informational digital signal obtained by encoding a teacher signal

5 corresponding to the second informational signal, to obtain a student signal that corresponds to the first informational signal, a second step of performing orthogonal transformation on informational data of a target position in the teacher signal, to obtain a first frequency coefficient, a third step of generating correction data for correcting

10 an encoding noise, the correction data corresponding to a first class to which informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, a fourth step of performing subtraction processing by use of the correction data obtained at the third step, on the frequency coefficient obtained at the second step, a fifth step of

15 performing orthogonal transformation on informational data among multiple items of informational data that constitute the student signal obtained at the first step, the informational data corresponding to the target position in the teacher signal, to obtain a second frequency coefficient, a sixth step of selecting plural

20 frequency coefficients that correspond to a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal based on the frequency coefficient obtained at the fifth step, and a seventh step of generating the coefficient data for each class by using a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs,

25 the plural frequency coefficients selected at the sixth step, and the data obtained at the fourth step corresponding to the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal.

A program relative to the invention allows a computer to execute the above method for generating coefficient data. A computer-

readable medium relative to the invention records the above program.

In the invention, the first informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data is generated by decoding an encoded informational digital signal. This invention relates to a 5 generation of coefficient data for an estimate equation used when converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal comprised of multiple items of informational data.

The student signal corresponding to the first informational 10 signal is generated by further decoding an encoded informational digital signal that is generated by encoding the teacher signal that corresponds to the second informational signal. Correction data for 15 correcting an encoding noise that corresponds to the first class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs is generated. For example, the correction data for each of the classes is stored in storage means, so that from this storage means, the correction data that corresponds to the first class is read. This correction data is generated beforehand by using the student 20 signal and the teacher signal.

Subtraction processing by use of the correction data generated as described above is performed on frequency coefficient obtained by performing orthogonal transformation on informational data of a target position in the teacher signal. Of the multiple items of informational data that constitute the student signal, the informational data 25 corresponding to the periphery of the target in the teacher signal is subject to orthogonal transformation. Based on frequency coefficient obtained the orthogonal transformation, the plural frequency coefficients corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the teacher signal are selected.

The coefficient data is generated for each class by using a second class to which the informational data of the target position in the teacher signal belongs, the selected plural frequency coefficients, and the subtraction data corresponding to the 5 informational data of the target position in the teacher signal. For example, the second class is the same as the first class.

Alternatively, class classification relating to the second class is the one obtained by making class classification relating to said first class finer.

10 Although, in such a manner, the coefficient data for the estimate equation used when converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal is generated, the items of coefficient data corresponding to the second class to which the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal belongs are 15 selectively used when converting the first informational signal into the second informational signal so that based on the estimate equation, the informational data of the target position in the second informational signal is generated.

Thus, in a case where the first informational signal is converted 20 into the second informational signal using the estimate equation, of an encoding noise in the informational signal obtained by decoding the encoded informational digital signal, the one yet remained by the correction processing by use of the correction data is well reduced.

25 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram for showing a configuration of a digital broadcast receiver according to a first embodiment;

FIG. 2 is a block diagram for showing a configuration of an MPEG2 decoder;

FIG. 3 is a block diagram for showing a configuration of a class classification portion;

FIG. 4 is a diagram for showing blocks for selecting a tap;

FIG. 5 is an explanatory diagram of operations of an addition 5 portion;

FIG. 6 is a block diagram for showing a configuration of an unit for generating difference data;

FIG. 7 is an explanatory diagram of operations of a subtraction portion;

10 FIG. 8 is a block diagram for showing a configuration example of an apparatus for processing image signal for realizing it in software;

FIG. 9 is a flowchart for showing image signal processing;

15 FIG. 10 is a flowchart for showing difference data generation processing;

FIG. 11 is another explanatory diagram for showing operations of the addition portion;

FIG. 12 is another explanatory diagram of operations of the subtraction portion;

20 FIG. 13 is a further explanatory diagram for showing operations of the addition portion;

FIG. 14 is a further explanatory diagram of operations of the subtraction portion;

25 FIG. 15 is an additional explanatory diagram for showing operations of the addition portion;

FIG. 16 is a block diagram for showing a configuration of a digital broadcast receiver according to a second embodiment;

FIG. 17 is a block diagram for showing a configuration of a class classification portion;

FIG. 18 is a block diagram for showing a configuration of a unit for generating coefficient data;

FIG. 19 is a flowchart for showing image signal processing;

FIG. 20 is a flowchart for showing coefficient data generation
5 processing;

FIG. 21 is a block diagram for showing a configuration of a digital broadcast receiver according to a third embodiment;

FIG. 22 is a block diagram for showing a configuration of another unit for generating coefficient data;

10 FIG. 23 is a flowchart for showing image signal processing;

FIG. 24 is a flowchart for showing coefficient data generation processing;

FIG. 25 is a block diagram for showing a configuration of a digital broadcast receiver according to a fourth embodiment;

15 FIG. 26 is a block diagram for showing a configuration of a further unit for generating coefficient data;

FIG. 27 is a flowchart for showing image signal processing;

FIG. 28 is a flowchart for showing coefficient data generation processing;

20 FIG. 29 is a block diagram for showing a configuration of a digital broadcast receiver according to a fifth embodiment;

FIG. 30 is a block diagram for showing a configuration of a still further unit for generating coefficient data;

FIG. 31 is a flowchart for showing image signal processing; and

25 FIG. 32 is a flowchart for showing coefficient data generation processing.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

The following will describe a first embodiment of the present

invention with reference to drawings. FIG. 1 shows a configuration of a digital broadcast receiver 100 according to the first embodiment.

This digital broadcast receiver 100 has a microcomputer and comprises a system controller 101 for controlling operations of an overall system and a remote-control signal reception circuit 102 for receiving a remote-control signal. The remote-control signal reception circuit 102 is connected to the system controller 101 and arranged to receive a remote-control signal RM output from a remote-control transmitter 200 in response to a user operation and supply the system controller 101 with an operation signal that corresponds to that signal RM.

The digital broadcast receiver 100 also has a reception antenna 105 and a tuner portion 106 which is supplied with a broadcast signal (RF-modulated signal) captured by this reception antenna 105, to perform channel selection processing, demodulation processing, error correction processing, etc., thereby obtaining an MPEG2 stream as an encoded image signal related to a predetermined program.

Further, the digital broadcast receiver 100 has an MPEG2 decoder 107 for decoding an MPEG2 stream output from the tuner portion 106 to obtain an image signal Va and a buffer memory 108 for temporarily storing the image signal Va output from this MPEG2 decoder 107.

FIG. 2 shows a configuration of the MPEG2 decoder 107.

This decoder 107 has an input terminal 181 through which an MPEG2 stream is input and a stream buffer 182 for temporarily storing an MPEG2 stream that has been input through this input terminal 181.

This decoder 107 also has an extraction circuit 183 for extracting a discrete cosine transform (DCT) coefficient as a frequency coefficient from an MPEG2 stream stored in the stream buffer 182 and a variable-length decoding circuit 184 for performing

variable-length decoding on a variable-length encoded, for example, Huffman-encoded DCT coefficient extracted by this extraction circuit 183.

Further, this decoder 107 has an extraction circuit 185 for extracting quantization character specification information from an MPEG2 stream stored in the stream buffer 182, an inverse quantization circuit 186 for performing inverse quantization on a quantization DCT coefficient output from the variable-length decoding circuit 184 based on the quantization characteristic specification information extracted by this extraction circuit 185, and an inverse DCT circuit 187 for performing inverse DCT on a DCT coefficient output from the inverse quantization circuit 186.

Further, the decoder 107 has a predictive memory circuit 188 for storing image signals of an intra-picture (I-picture) and a predictive-picture (P-picture) in a memory (not shown) and, by using these image signals, generating and outputting a reference image signal Vref that corresponds to an image signal of a P-picture or a bi-directionally predictive-picture (B-picture) when it is output from the inverse DCT circuit 187.

Further, the decoder 107 has an addition circuit 189 for adding the reference image signal Vref generated by the predictive memory circuit 188 to an image signal of a P-picture or a B-picture when this image signal is output from the inverse DCT circuit 187. It is to be noted that when an image signal of an I-picture is output from the inverse DCT circuit 187, the addition circuit 189 is not supplied with the reference image signal Vref from the predictive memory circuit 188 and so outputs the image signal of the I-picture as it is output from the inverse DCT circuit 187.

Further, the decoder 107 has a picture selection circuit 190

for supplying the predictive memory circuit 188 with image signals of an I-picture and a P-picture output from the addition circuit 189 so that they may be stored in the memory, rearranging in a proper order the image signals of the pictures output from this addition circuit 189, and outputting them and an output terminal 191 for outputting the image signals that has been output from this picture selection circuit 190.

Further, the decoder 107 has an extraction circuit 192 for extracting encoding control information, that is, picture information 10 PI and motion compensation vector information MI from an MPEG2 stream stored in the stream buffer 182. The motion compensation vector information MI extracted by this extraction circuit 192 is supplied to the predictive memory circuit 188, which uses this motion compensation vector information MI so that motion compensation may 15 be performed when the reference image signal Vref is generated. The picture information PI extracted by the extraction circuit 192, on the other hand, is supplied to the predictive memory circuit 188 and the picture selection circuit 190 so that pictures may be identified by these predictive memory circuit 188 and picture selection circuit 20 190 based on this picture information PI.

The following will describe operations of the MPEG2 decoder 107 shown in FIG. 2.

An MPEG2 stream stored in the stream buffer 182 is supplied to the extraction circuit 183, which extracts a DCT coefficient as a 25 frequency coefficient. This DCT coefficient, which is already variable-length encoded, is supplied to the variable-length decoding circuit 184 to be decoded. A quantization DCT coefficient output from this variable-length decoding circuit 184 is supplied to the inverse quantization circuit 186, where it undergoes inverse quantization.

A DCT coefficient output from the inverse quantization circuit 186 undergoes inverse DCT at the inverse DCT circuit 183 so that an image signal of each of the pictures may be obtained. This image signal of each of the picture is supplied via the addition circuit 189 to 5 the picture selection circuit 190. In this case, to each of the image signals of the P-picture and the B-picture, the addition circuit 189 adds the reference image signal V_{ref} output from the predictive memory circuit 188. The image signals of the pictures are rearranged in a proper order by the picture selection circuit 190 and output to the 10 output terminal 191.

Again, as shown in FIG. 1, the digital broadcast receiver 100 comprises an image-signal-processing portion 110 for converting the image signal V_a stored in the buffer memory 108 into an image signal V_b in which is reduced an encoding noise (encoding distortion) such 15 as block noise (block distortion) and mosquito noise and a display portion 111 for displaying an image due to the image signal output from this image-signal-processing portion 110. The display portion 111 is constituted of a display device such as a cathode-ray tube (CRT) or a liquid crystal display (LCD).

20 The following will describe operations of the digital broadcast receiver 100 shown in FIG. 1.

An MPEG2 stream output from the tuner portion 106 is supplied to the MPEG2 decoder 107 to be decoded. The image signal V_a output from this decoder 107 is supplied to the buffer memory 108 to be stored 25 temporarily.

In such a manner, the image signal V_a stored in the buffer memory 108 is supplied to the image-signal-processing portion 110, where it is converted into the image signal V_b in which the encoding noise (encoding distortion) is reduced. This image-signal-processing

portion 110 provides pixel data that constitutes the image signal Vb, from pixel data that constitutes the image signal Va.

The image signal Vb output from the image-signal-processing portion 110 is supplied to the display portion 111, which displays 5 on its screen an image due to that image signal Vb.

The following will describe details of the image-signal-processing portion 110.

The image-signal-processing portion 110 has an accumulation table 131. This accumulation table 131 stores beforehand difference 10 data DF as correction data for correction of encoding noise (encoding distortion) for each class. This difference data DF is that of pixel data or difference data of a DCT coefficient (frequency coefficient) obtained through DCT processing.

The accumulation table 131 is supplied with a class code CL 15 output from a class classification portion 130, which will be described later, as read address information. From this accumulation table 131, the difference data DF that corresponds to a class code CL is read and supplied to an addition portion 134, which will be described later.

Difference data DF stored in this accumulation table 131 is 20 generated beforehand by using a student signal that corresponds to the image signal Va and a teacher signal that corresponds to the image signal Vb. For example, the student signal is obtained by decoding an MPEG2 stream obtained by MPEG2 encoding the teacher signal.

Further, the image-signal-processing portion 100 has a DCT 25 circuit 132 for performing DCT processing on the image signal Va stored in the buffer memory 108 to obtain a DCT coefficient and a transfer switch 133 whose a-side fixed terminal is supplied with a DCT coefficient output from the DCT circuit 132 and whose b-side fixed terminal is supplied with the image signal Va output from the buffer

memory 108. This transfer switch 133 is configured so that it may be connected to its b-side if difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 131 is difference data of pixel data and that it may be connected to its a-side if the difference data DF is that of a DCT coefficient obtained through DCT processing.

Further, the image-signal-processing portion 110 has the addition portion 134 serving as correction means for adding the difference data DF read out of the accumulation table 131 to data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) x, which has been output from a movable terminal of the transfer switch 133, corresponding to a target position in the image signal Vb, thus generating data y of the target position in the image signal Vb.

It is to be noted that items of data x and y are block data that corresponds to a DCT block, which is used as a unit in DCT processing. In the present embodiment, the number of items of data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) that constitute data y is equal to that of items of data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) that constitute data x.

In this case, the number of items of pixel data that constitute the image signal Vb is equal to that of items of pixel data that constitute the image signal Va. For example, if data x is comprised of 8x8 items of data, 8x8 items of data are generated in the addition portion 134 as data y. In this case, further, the difference data DF supplied from the accumulation table 131 to the addition portion 134 is also comprised of 8x8 items of data.

Further, the image-signal-processing portion 110 has an inverse DCT circuit 135 for performing inverse DCT processing on an output signal of the addition portion 134 and a transfer switch 136 whose a-side fixed terminal is supplied with an output signal of the inverse DCT circuit 135 and whose b-side fixed terminal is supplied with an

output signal of the addition portion 134. This transfer switch 136 is configured so that it may be connected to its b-side if the difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 131 is difference data of pixel data and that it may be connected to its a-side if the difference data DF is that of a DCT coefficient obtained through DCT processing. 5 A signal output from a movable terminal of this transfer switch 136 is supplied to the display portion 111 as the image signal Vb.

Further, the image-signal-processing portion 110 has the class classification portion 130 serving as class detection means for 10 detecting a class to which pixel data y of a target position in the image signal Vb belongs. This class classification portion 130 uses multiple items of pixel data, which are positioned in a periphery of a target position in the image signal Vb, among multiple items of pixel data that constitute the image signal Va stored in the buffer memory 15 108, to generate a class code CL that indicates a class to which pixel data y of the target position in this image signal Vb belongs.

FIG. 3 shows a configuration of the class classification portion 130.

This class classification portion 130 has an input terminal 130A 20 through which the image signal Va is input and tap selection circuits 130B₁ through 130B_n for selectively taking out multiple items of pixel data of a class tap which is used to detect n number of type(s) of class(es) to which pixel data y of a target position in the image signal Vb belongs, respectively.

25 Further, the class classification portion 130 has class generation circuits 130C₁ through 130C_n for generating class codes CL₁ through CL_n that indicate n number of types of classes by using pixel data taken out by the tap selection circuits 130B₁ through 130B_n respectively, a class integration circuit 130D for integrating class

codes CL_1 through CL_n generated by these class generating circuits 130C₁ through 130C_n into one class code CL, and an output terminal 130E for outputting this class code CL.

In the present embodiment, class codes CL₁ through CL₆ that 5 indicate six types of classes are generated, and thus, these class codes CL₁ through CL₆ are integrated into one class code CL and output. The six classes are a space waveform class, a time variation class, an AC variation class, a flat class, a line correlation class, and a block edge class. The following will describe these classes briefly 10 below.

(1) The following will describe the space waveform class. It is supposed that the tap selection circuit 130B₁ and the class generation circuit 130C₁ constitute a system for detecting this space waveform class.

15 The tap selection circuit 130B₁ takes out, from a current frame of the image signal Va, pixel data of a block (target block shown in FIG. 4) that corresponds to pixel data y of a target position in the image signal Vb. The class generation circuit 130C₁ divides 8x8 items 20 of pixel data of the target block into four regions to obtain pixel average values of each divided region to provide 2x2 items of upper-hierarchy pixel data and performs, for example, 1-bit adaptive dynamic range coding (ADRC) on each of these 2x2 items of pixel data, thereby generating a 4-bit class code CL₁ that indicates the space waveform class.

25 ADRC is utilized to obtain a maximum value and a minimum value of multiple items of pixel data of a class tap to obtain a dynamic range, which is a difference between the maximum value and the minimum value, thereby re-quantizing each of the pixel values in such a manner as to adapt to the dynamic range. In the case of 1-bit ADRC, each

of the pixel values is converted into one bit in accordance with whether it is larger or smaller than an average value of the plural pixel values of the class tap. ADRC processing aims at reducing the number of classes representing a pixel value level distribution to a relatively small number. Therefore, besides ADRC, any other coding method such as vector quantization (VQ) may be used which compresses the number of bits of a pixel value.

(2) The following will describe the time variation class. It is supposed that the tap selection circuit 130B₂ and the class generation circuit 130C₂ constitute a system for detecting this time variation class.

The tap selection circuit 130B₂ takes out, from a current frame of the image signal V_a, pixel data of a block (target block shown in FIG. 4) that corresponds to pixel data y of a target position in the image signal V_b and also, from an immediately previous frame of the image signal V_a, pixel data of a block (previous block shown in FIG. 4) that corresponds to the target block.

The class generation circuit 130C₂ performs subtractions between 8x8 items of pixel data of the target block and 8x8 items of pixel data of the previous block for each of the corresponding pixels to obtain 8x8 difference values, obtains a sum of squares of these 8x8 difference values, and performs threshold-value decision on this sum of squares, thereby generating a two-bit class code CL₂ that indicates the time variation class.

(3) The following will describe the AC variation class. It is supposed that the tap selection circuit 130B₃ and the class generation circuit 130C₃ constitute a system for detecting this AC variation class.

The tap selection circuit 130B₃ takes out, from a current frame

of the image signal V_a , pixel data of a block (target block shown in FIG. 4) that corresponds to pixel data y of a target position in the image signal V_b and also, from an immediately previous frame of the image signal V_a , pixel data of a block (previous block shown in FIG. 5 4) that corresponds to the target block.

The class generation circuit $130C_3$ performs DCT processing on each of the 8×8 items of pixel data of the target block and the 8×8 items of pixel data of the previous block to obtain a DCT coefficient (frequency coefficient). The class generation circuit $130C_3$ obtains, 10 on each base position of an AC portion, the number m_1 of the base positions where the coefficient exists at either side, and, of these positions, the number m_2 of the base positions where the code is inverted or one of the coefficient values is 0, to perform threshold-value decision on m_1/m_2 , thereby generating a two-bit class 15 code CL_3 that indicates the AC variation class. For a block with a smaller amount of time variation, this AC variation class can be used to perform class classification in accordance with mosquito distortion.

(4) The following will describe the flat class. It is supposed 20 that the tap selection circuit $130B_4$ and the class generation circuit $130C_4$ constitute a system for detecting this flat class.

The tap selection circuit $130B_4$ takes out, from a current frame of the image signal V_a , pixel data of a block (target block shown in FIG. 4) that corresponds to pixel data y of a target position in the 25 image signal V_b . The class generation circuit $130C_4$ detects a maximum value and a minimum value of 8×8 items of pixel data of the target block and performs threshold-value decision on a dynamic range, which is a difference between these values, thereby generating a one-bit class code CL_4 that indicates the flat class.

(5) The following will describe the line correlation class. It is supposed that the tap selection circuit 130B₅ and the class generation circuit 130C₅ constitute a system for detecting this line correlation class.

5 The tap selection circuit 130B₅ takes out, from a current frame of the image signal V_a, pixel data of a block (target block shown in FIG. 4) that corresponds to pixel data y of a target position in the image signal V_b.

10 The class generation circuit 130C₅ performs subtractions between a first line and a second line, a third line and a fourth line, a fifth line and a sixth line, and a seventh line and an eighth line of 8x8 pixel data in the target block for each of the corresponding pixels to obtain 8x4 difference values, obtains a sum of squares of these 8x4 difference values, and performs threshold-value decision 15 on this sum of squares, thereby generating a one-bit class code CL₅ that indicates the line correlation class. This line correlation class indicates whether an intra-frame correlation is high as in the case of a still image or an intra-field correlation is higher than the intra-frame correlation as in the case of a speedily moving case.

20 (6) The following will describe the block edge class. It is supposed that the tap selection circuit 130B₆ and the class generation circuit 130C₆ constitute a system for detecting this block edge class.

25 The tap selection circuit 130B₆ takes out, from a current frame of the image signal V_a, pixel data of a block (target block shown in FIG. 4) that corresponds to pixel data y of a target position in the image signal V_b and also takes out, from this current frame, pixel data of vertically and horizontally adjacent blocks (adjacent blocks shown in FIG. 4) to the target block.

The class generation circuit 130C₆ performs subtractions

between eight items of pixel data in four sides of the target block and pixel data of the adjacent blocks that are adjacent thereto for each of the corresponding pixels to obtain 4x8 difference values, obtains a sums of squares of each of these eight difference-values, 5 and performs threshold-value decision on the four sums of squares that correspond to the four sides of the target block respectively, thereby generating a four-bit class code CL₆ that indicates the block edge class.

In the present embodiment, the class integration circuit 130D 10 integrates class codes CL₁ through CL₆ generated by the class generation circuit 130C₁ through 130C₆, into one class code CL.

In this case, if CL₁ through CL₆ are integrated simply, the class code CL indicates 16 classes (space waveform classes) x 4 classes (time variation classes) x 4 classes (AC variation classes) x 2 classes (flat 15 classes) x 2 classes (line correlation classes) x 16 classes (block edge classes) = 16384 classes.

In the present embodiment, however, the AC variation classes are integrated to the time variation classes in a form of a tree structure. That is, if the time variation is small in quantity, a 20 relevant portion has a high possibility of being a still portion. Therefore, time variation classification is performed, so that if the time variation is small in quantity, AC variation classification is performed in a tree structure. Accordingly, the number of classes after the time variation classes and the AC variation classes are 25 integrated is 7 (=4+4-1).

Further, in the present embodiment, the line correlation classes are integrated to the flat classes in a form of a tree structure. That is, flat classification is performed, so that if the classes are not flat, line correlation classification is performed in a tree

structure; accordingly, the number of classes after the flat classes and the line correlation classes are integrated is 3 (=2+2-1).

By thus integrating the classes by using a tree structure, the class code CL indicates 16 classes (space waveform classes) x 7 classes
5 (time variation classes and AC variation classes) x 16 classes (block edge classes) x 3 classes (flat classes and line correlation classes) = 5376 classes, thus enabling the number of classes to be reduced significantly.

The following will describe operations of this image-
10 signal-processing portion 110.

First, such a case will be described that difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 131 is that of pixel data. In this case, the transfer switches 133 and 136 are each connected to the b-sides thereof.

15 The class classification portion 130 generates a class code CL that indicates a class to which pixel data y of the target position in this image signal Vb belongs using multiple items of pixel data in the image signal Va, which are positioned in a periphery of a target position in the image signal Vb.

20 This class code CL is supplied to the accumulation table 131 as read address information. From the accumulation table 131, based on this class code CL, difference data DF that corresponds to the target position in the image signal Vb is read and supplied to the addition portion 134.

25 Further, of the image signal Va stored in the buffer memory 108, pixel data x corresponding to the target position in the image signal Vb is supplied via the b-side of the transfer switch 133 to the addition portion 134. The addition portion 134 adds to this pixel data x the difference data DF read out of the accumulation table, to generate

pixel data y of the target position in the image signal Vb.

It is to be noted that the pixel data x and y are each block data comprised of, for example, 8x8 items of pixel data. Further, the difference data DF supplied from the accumulation table 131 to 5 the addition portion 134 is also comprised of, for example, 8x8 items of difference data. The addition portion 134 adds each of the items of difference data that constitute the difference data DF to each of the items of pixel data that constitute the pixel data x, to obtain each of the items of pixel data that constitute the pixel data y.

10 FIG. 5 shows outlined addition operations in the addition portion 134 assuming, for simplicity, that the block data is comprised of 2x2 items of pixel data. To four items of pixel data A-D that constitute the pixel data x, four items of difference data a-d that constitute the difference data DF are added respectively, so that four 15 items of pixel data A'-D' that constitute the pixel data y are obtained. That is, $A' = A+a$, $B' = B+b$, $C' = C+c$, and $D' = D+d$.

The pixel data y generated by the addition portion 134 is output via the b-side of the transfer switch 136 as an output signal of the image-signal-processing portion 110. That is, this pixel data y 20 constitutes the image signal Vb.

Next, such a case will be described that difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 131 is that of a DCT coefficient obtained through DCT processing. In this case, the transfer switches 133 and 136 are each connected to the a-sides thereof.

25 The class classification portion 130 generates a class code CL that indicates a class to which pixel data y of the target position in the image signal Vb belongs using multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of a target position in the image signal Vb, of the image signal Va stored in the buffer memory 108.

This class code CL is supplied to the accumulation table 131 as read address information. From the accumulation table 131, based on this class code CL, difference data DF that corresponds to the target position in the image signal Vb is read and supplied to the addition portion 134.

Further, a DCT coefficient x, which is obtained by the DCT circuit 132, corresponding to pixel data y of the target position in the image signal Vb and being obtained by performing DCT processing on multiple items of pixel data of the image signal Va is supplied via the a-side of the transfer switch 133 to the addition portion 134. The addition portion 134 adds the difference data DF to this DCT coefficient x, to generate a DCT coefficient y that corresponds to pixel data of the target position in the image signal Vb.

It is to be noted that the DCT coefficients x and y are each block data comprised of, for example, 8x8 DCT coefficients. Further, the difference data DF supplied from the accumulation table 131 to the addition 134 is also comprised of, for example, 8x8 items of difference data. The addition portion 134 adds each difference data that constitutes the difference data DF to each of the DCT coefficients that constitute the DCT coefficient x, to obtain each of the DCT coefficients that constitute the DCT coefficient y (see FIG. 5).

The DCT coefficient y generated by the addition portion 134 is supplied to the inverse DCT circuit 135. This inverse DCT circuit 135 performs inverse DCT processing on the DCT coefficient y to obtain the pixel data. The pixel data thus output from the inverse DCT circuit 135 is output via the a-side of the transfer switch 136 as an output signal of the image-signal-processing portion 110.

In such a manner, the image-signal-processing portion 110, when correcting data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) x related to the image

signal Va to thereby obtain data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) y related to the image signal Vb, detects a class to which the data y belongs based on the image signal Va and adds difference data DF that corresponds to this detected class to the data x to thereby obtain 5 data y corrected so as to reduce encoding noise, thereby enabling such an image signal Vb that the encoding noise is reduced well to be obtained.

FIG. 6 shows a configuration of a unit 210 for generating difference data DF to be stored in the accumulation table 131 in the 10 image-signal-processing portion 110 of FIG. 1.

This unit 210 for generating difference data has an input terminal 151 through which a teacher signal ST corresponding to the image signal Vb is input, an MPEG2 encoder 152 for encoding this teacher signal ST to obtain an MPEG2 stream, and an MPEG2 decoder 153 for 15 decoding this MPEG2 stream to obtain a student signal SS that corresponds to the image signal Va.

Further, the unit 210 for generating difference data has a DCT circuit 171 for performing DCT processing on the student signal SS output from the MPEG2 decoder 153 to obtain a DCT coefficient and a 20 transfer switch 172 whose a-side fixed terminal is supplied with a DCT coefficient output from this DCT circuit 171 and whose b-side fixed terminal is supplied with the student signal SS output from the MPEG2 decoder 153. This transfer switch 172 is configured so that it may be connected to its b-side if the difference data DF stored in the 25 accumulation table 177, which will be described later, is difference data of pixel data and that it may be connected to its a-side if the difference data DF is that of a DCT coefficient obtained through DCT processing.

Further, the unit 210 for generating difference data has a DCT

circuit 173 for performing DCT processing on the teacher signal ST time-adjusted by a delay circuit 159 to obtain a frequency coefficient and a transfer switch 174 whose a-side fixed terminal is supplied with a frequency coefficient output from this DCT circuit 173 and whose 5 b-side fixed terminal is supplied with the teacher signal ST time-adjusted by the delay circuit 159. This transfer switch 174 is configured so that it may be connected to its b-side if the difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 177, which will be described 10 later, is difference data of pixel data and that it may be connected to its a-side if the difference data DF is that of a DCT coefficient obtained through DCT processing.

Further, the unit 210 for generating difference data has a subtraction portion 175 for subtracting data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) x , which is output from a movable terminal of the transfer 15 switch 173, corresponding to a target position in the teacher signal ST, from data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) y of the target position of this teacher signal ST, thus obtaining difference data df .

It is to be noted that items of the data x and y are each block data that corresponds to a DCT block, which is used as a unit in DCT 20 processing. In the present embodiment, the number of items of the data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) that constitute data y is equal to that of items of the data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) that constitute data x .

In this case, the number of items of the pixel data that 25 constitute the teacher signal ST is equal to that of items of the pixel data that constitute the student signal SS. For example, if data x and y are each comprised of 8x8 items of pixel data, 8x8 items of difference data are generated in the subtraction portion 175 as difference data df .

FIG. 7 shows outlined subtraction operations in the subtraction portion 175 assuming, for simplicity, that the block data is comprised of 2x2 items of data. Four items of data A-D that constitute the data x are subtracted from four items of data A'-D' that constitute the data y , respectively so that four items of difference data a-d that constitute the data x are obtained. That is, $a=A'-A$, $b=B'-B$, $c=C'-C$, and $d=D'-D$.

Further, the unit 210 for generating difference data has an accumulation control portion 176 for averaging difference data df , 10 for each class, sequentially output from the subtraction portion 175, based on a class code CL generated by a class classification portion 178, which will be described later and storing its result in the accumulation table 177 as difference data DF .

Further, the unit 210 for generating difference data has the 15 class classification portion 178 serving as class detection means for detecting a class to which pixel data of a target position in the teacher signal ST belongs. This class classification portion 178, detailed description of which is omitted though, is arranged the same way as the class classification portion 130 in the image-processing-portion 20 110 shown in FIG. 1 in that it uses multiple items of pixel data positioned in the periphery of the target position in the teacher signal ST among multiple items of pixel data that constitutes the student signal SS output from the MPEG2 decoder 153, to generate a class code CL that indicates a class to which pixel data of the target 25 position in this teacher signal ST belongs.

The following will describe operations of the unit 210 for generating difference data shown in FIG. 6.

First, such a case will be described that difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 177 is that of pixel data. In this

case, the transfer switches 172 and 174 are each connected to the b-sides thereof.

A teacher signal ST corresponding to the image signal V_b is supplied to the input terminal 151 and encoded in the MPEG2 encoder 152 where an MPEG2 stream is generated. This MPEG2 stream is supplied to the MPEG2 decoder 153. The MPEG2 decoder 153 decodes the MPEG2 stream to generate a student signal SS that corresponds to the image signal V_a . This student signal SS has undergone MPEG2 encoding and decoding and so contains an encoding noise (encoding distortion).

Of the teacher signal ST time-adjusted by the delay circuit 159, pixel data y of a target position therein is supplied via the b-side of the transfer switch 174 to the subtraction portion 175. This subtraction portion 175 is supplied via the b-side of the transfer switch 172 with pixel data x that corresponds to the target position in the teacher signal ST among the student signal SS output from the MPEG2 decoder 153. Then, the subtraction portion 175 subtracts pixel data x from pixel data y to generate difference data df . The difference data df that correspond to each of the target positions in the teacher signal and is output sequentially from this subtraction portion 175 is supplied to the accumulation control portion 176.

Note here that the pixel data x and y are each block data comprised of, for example, 8x8 items of pixel data. The subtraction portion 175 subtracts each of the items of pixel data that constitute the pixel data x from each of the items of pixel data that constitute the pixel data y to obtain each of the items of difference data that constitute the difference data df .

The class classification portion 178 generates a class code CL that indicates a class to which the pixel data y of the target position in this teacher signal ST belongs using multiple items of pixel data

positioned in a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal ST among the multiple items of pixel data that constitute the student signal SS output from the MPEG2 decoder 153.

5 This class code CL is supplied to the accumulation control portion 176. The accumulation control portion 176 averages multiple items of difference data DF, respectively, for each class, that is sequentially output from the subtraction portion 175, based on the class code CL, and stores its result in the accumulation table 177 as multiple items of difference data DF.

10 Next, such a case is described that difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 177 is that of a DCT coefficient. In this case, the transfer switches 172 and 174 are each connected to the a-side thereof.

15 A teacher signal ST corresponding to the image signal Vb is supplied to the input terminal 151 and encoded in the MPEG2 encoder 152 where an MPEG2 stream is generated. This MPEG2 stream is supplied to the MPEG2 decoder 153. The MPEG2 decoder 153 decodes the MPEG2 stream, to generate a student signal SS that corresponds to the image signal Va. This student signal SS has undergone MPEG2 encoding and 20 decoding and so contains an encoding noise (encoding distortion).

25 Of the teacher signal ST time-adjusted by the delay circuit 159, a DCT coefficient y obtained by performing DCT processing at the DCT circuit 173 on pixel data of a target position thereof is supplied via the a-side of the transfer switch 174 to the subtraction portion 175. Further, of the student signal SS output from the MPEG decoder 153, a DCT coefficient x obtained by performing DCT processing at the DCT circuit 171 on pixel data that corresponds to the target position of the teacher signal ST is supplied via the a-side of the transfer switch 172 thereto. Then, the subtraction portion 175 subtracts the

DCT coefficient x from the DCT coefficient y to generate difference data df. The difference data df that correspond to each of the target positions in the teacher signal ST and are output sequentially from this subtraction portion 175 is supplied to the accumulation control 5 portion 176.

Note here that the DCT coefficients x and y are each block data comprised of, for example, 8x8 DCT coefficients. The subtraction portion 175 subtracts each of the DCT coefficients that constitute the DCT coefficient x from each of the DCT coefficients that constitute 10 the DCT coefficient y to obtain each of the items of difference data that constitute the difference data df.

The class classification portion 178 uses multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal ST among multiple items of pixel data that constitute 15 the student signal SS output from the MPEG2 decoder 153, to generate a class code CL that indicates a class to which the pixel data of the target position in this teacher signal ST belongs.

This class code CL is supplied to the accumulation control portion 176. The accumulation control portion 176 averages multiple 20 items of difference data df, respectively, for each class, that is sequentially output from the subtraction portion 175, based on the class code CL, and stores its result in the accumulation table 177 as multiple items of difference data DF.

It is thus possible to generate class-specific difference data 25 DF to be stored in the accumulation table 131 in the image-signal-processing portion 110 of FIG. 1, in the unit 210 for generating difference data shown in FIG. 6.

It is to be noted that processing in the image-signal-processing portion 110 of FIG. 1 can be realized also in software by, for example,

such an apparatus 300 for processing image signal as shown in FIG. 8.

First, the apparatus 300 for processing image signal shown in FIG. 8 will be described. This apparatus 300 for processing image signal has a CPU301 for controlling operations of the device as a whole, a read only memory (ROM) 302 for storing a control program for this CPU301, difference data, etc, and a random access memory (RAM) 303 for providing a working space for the CPU301. These CPU301, ROM302, and RAM303 are each connected to a bus 304.

Further, the apparatus 300 for processing image signal has a hard disk drive (HDD) 305 serving as an external memory and a drive (FDD) 307 for driving a floppy (registered trademark) disk 306. These drives 305 and 307 are each connected to the bus 304.

Further, the apparatus 300 for processing image signal has a communication portion 308 that connects to a communication network 400 such as the Internet in a wire line or wireless manner. This communication portion 308 is connected to the bus 304 via an interface 309.

Further, the apparatus 300 for processing image signal has a user interface portion. This user interface portion has a remote-control signal reception circuit 310 for receiving the remote-control signal RM from the remote-control transmitter 200 and a display 311 constituted of a liquid crystal display (LCD) etc. The reception circuit 310 is connected to the bus 304 via an interface 312 and, similarly, the display 311 is connected to the bus 304 via an interface 313.

Further, the apparatus 300 for processing image signal has an input terminal 314 for allowing the image signal Va to be input and an output terminal 315 for outputting the image signal Vb. The input

terminal 314 is connected to the bus 304 via an interface 316 and, similarly, the output terminal 315 is connected to the bus via an interface 317.

It is to be noted that instead of storing the control program, difference data, etc. in the ROM302 beforehand as described above, they can also be downloaded via the communication portion 308 from the communication network 400 such as, for example, the Internet and accumulated to a hard disk or the RAM303 and used. Further, these control program, difference data, etc. may be provided on the floppy 10 (registered trademark) disk 306.

Further, instead of inputting the image signal Va to be processed through the input terminal 314, it may be recorded on a hard disk beforehand or downloaded via the communication portion 308 from the communication network 400 such as the Internet. Further, instead of 15 outputting the image signal Vb after being processed to the output terminal 315 or concurrently with doing so, it may be supplied to the display 311 so that an image would be displayed or, further, stored on a hard disk or sent via the communication portion 308 to the communication network 400 such as the Internet.

20 The following will describe a processing procedure for obtaining the image signal Vb from the image signal Va in the apparatus 300 for processing image signal shown in FIG. 8, with reference to a flowchart of FIG. 9.

First, at step ST11, the process starts processing, and at step 25 ST12, it inputs from, for example, the input terminal 314 one frame or one field of the image signal Va into the apparatus. In such a manner, pixel data that constitutes the image signal Va input from the input terminal 314 is stored in the RAM303 temporarily. It is to be noted that if this image signal Va is recorded in the hard disk

drive 307 in the device beforehand, this image signal Va is read out of this drive 307 so that the pixel data that constitutes this image signal Va is temporarily stored in the RAM303.

At step ST13, it decides whether processing of all the frame 5 or field of the image signal Va has finished. If the processing has finished, the process ends the processing at step ST14. Otherwise, it goes to step ST15.

At this step ST15, the process acquires pixel data of a class tap to be used for class classification from the image signal Va input 10 at step ST12, in accordance with a target position in the image signal Vb. At step ST16, it generates a class code CL from the class tap pixel data.

Next, at step ST17, based on the class code CL generated at step ST16, the process reads difference data DF that corresponds to that 15 class code CL out of the ROM302 etc. and stores it in the RAM303 temporarily.

Next, at step ST18, it adds the difference data DF read at step ST17 to pixel data x that corresponds to the target position in the image signal Vb among multiple items of pixel data that constitute 20 the image signal Va, to generate pixel data y of the target position in the image signal Vb.

If, in this case, the difference data DF stored in the ROM302 etc. is that of a DCT coefficient which is obtained through DCT processing, the data y, which is a result of the addition, is a DCT 25 coefficient, so that at step ST18, inverse DCT processing is performed further thereon. In this case, further, DCT processing is performed on the image signal Va input at the above-mentioned step ST12, to provide data x that corresponds to the target position in the image signal Vb, as a DCT coefficient.

Next, at step ST19, the process decides whether processing of obtaining pixel data of the image signal Vb has finished in all regions of pixel data of the frame or field of the image signal Va input at step ST12. If the processing has finished, the process returns to 5 step ST12 to input the next one frame or field of the image signal Va. Otherwise, the process returns to step ST15 to repeat the same processing as the above on the next target position.

By thus performing the processing along the flowchart of FIG. 9, it is possible to process pixel data of the input image signal Va, 10 thereby obtaining pixel data of the image signal Vb. As described above, the image signal Vb thus processed and obtained is output to the output terminal 315 or supplied to the display 311 so that a resultant image may be displayed or, further, supplied to the hard disk drive 305 to be recorded on a hard disk.

15 Although a processing device is not shown, processing in the unit 210 for generating difference data of FIG. 6 can also be realized in software.

The following will describe a processing procedure for generating difference data with reference to a flowchart of FIG. 10.

20 First, at step ST121 the process starts processing, and at step ST122 it inputs one frame or one field of the teacher signal ST. At step ST123, it decides whether processing of all the frame or field of the teacher signal ST has finished. If the processing has finished, the process goes to step ST124 to save difference data DF of each class 25 in a memory and goes to ST125 to end the processing. Otherwise, it goes to step ST126.

At step ST126, the process performs MPEG encoding on the teacher signal ST input at step ST122 and, further, performs MPEG decoding on a resultant encoded data to generate a student signal SS.

Next, at step ST127, the process acquires pixel data of a class tap to be used for class classification from the student signal SS generated at step ST126, in accordance with a target position in the teacher signal ST. At step ST128, it generates a class code CL from 5 the class tap pixel data.

Next, at step ST129, the process subtracts pixel data x of the student signal SS that corresponds to the target position in the teacher signal ST from pixel data y of the target position of this teacher signal ST to obtain difference data df. Further, at this step 10 ST129, the process performs averaging processing thereon, for each class, based on the class code CL generated at step ST128, to generate difference data DF.

Next, at step ST130, the process decides whether processing of generating the difference data DF has finished in all regions of the 15 teacher signal ST input at step ST122. If processing of generating the difference data DF has finished, the process returns to step ST122 to input the next one frame or field of the teacher signal, thus repeating the same processing as above. Otherwise, the process returns to step ST127 to repeat the same processing as the above on 20 the next target position.

In this case, to generate difference data of a DCT coefficient obtained through DCT processing as the difference data DF, it is necessary to provide difference data df, which is a result of the subtraction, as the difference data of the DCT coefficient. In such 25 a case, the process performs DCT processing on the teacher signal ST input at the above-mentioned step ST122, to convert the pixel data y that corresponds to the target position in the teacher signal ST into a DCT coefficient. Further, it performs DCT processing on the student signal SS generated at the above-mentioned step ST126, to

convert the pixel data x of the student signal SS that corresponds to the target position in the teacher signal ST into a DCT coefficient.

By thus performing the processing along the flowchart of FIG. 10, it is possible to obtain the difference data DF by the same method 5 as that for the unit 210 for generating difference data shown in FIG. 6.

It is to be noted that in the image-signal-processing portion 110 of the digital broadcast receiver 100 shown in FIG. 1 according to the present embodiment, items of data x and y have each been block 10 data that corresponds to a DCT block which provides a unit to be used in DCT processing, the number of the items of data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) that constitute the data y has been equal to the number of the items of data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) that constitute the data x , and the number of the items of pixel data that constitute 15 the image signal V_b has been equal to the number of the items of pixel data that constitute the image signal V_a .

However, it is also possible to make the number of the items of pixel data that constitute the image signal V_b equal to N (which is 2 or larger integer) times the number of the items of pixel data 20 that constitute the image signal V_a . In this case, the number of the items of data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) that constitute the data y is N times the number of the items of data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) that constitute the data x . In this case, further, difference data DF to be supplied from the accumulation table 131 to 25 the addition portion 134 is comprised of the same number of the items of difference data as that of the items of data that constitute the data y . For example, if $N=4$, the data x is comprised of 8x8 items of data and the data y is comprised of 16x16 items of data.

In this case, the addition portion 134 performs different

additions depending on whether the difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 131 is that of pixel data or that of DCT coefficients (frequency coefficients) obtained through DCT processing.

First, such a case will be described that the difference data 5 DF stored in the accumulation table 131 is that of pixel data.

In this case, to each of the difference data contained in each of divided regions obtained by dividing the difference data DF by N, each of the items of corresponding pixel data that constitute the pixel data x is added to obtain each item of pixel data that constitute pixel 10 data y.

FIG. 11 shows outlined addition operations performed by the addition portion 134 in a case where N=4, for example, assuming, for simplicity, that the pixel data x is comprised of 2x2 items of pixel data and the pixel data y is comprised of 4x4 items of pixel data. 15 The difference data DF is divided by 4 into a_1-a_4 , b_1-b_4 , c_1-c_4 , and d_1-d_4 . To each of the items of difference data a_1-a_4 , pixel data A that constitutes the pixel data x is added so that each of the items of pixel data A_1-A_4 that constitute the pixel data y is obtained.

Further, to each of the items of difference data b_1-b_4 , pixel 20 data B that constitutes the pixel data x is added so that each of the items of pixel data B_1-B_4 that constitute the pixel data y is obtained. Further, to each of the items of difference data c_1-c_4 , pixel data C that constitutes the pixel data y is added so that each of the items of pixel data C_1-C_4 that constitute the pixel data y is obtained.

25 Further, to each of the items of difference data d_1-d_4 , pixel data D that constitutes the pixel data x is added so that each of the items of pixel data D_1-D_4 that constitute the pixel data y is obtained.

Further, the difference data DF in this case can be generated in the unit 210 for generating difference data shown in FIG. 6. In

this case, for example, after the MPEG3 encoder 153 is used to perform decoding, thinning-out processing is performed, to make the number of the items of pixel data that constitute the student signal SS equal to $(1/N)$ times the number of the items of pixel data that constitute the teacher signal ST. Accordingly, the number of the items of pixel data that constitute the pixel data y becomes N times the number of the items of pixel data that constitute the pixel data x. For example, if $N=4$, the pixel data x is comprised of 8×8 items of pixel data and the pixel data y is comprised of 16×16 items of pixel data.

In this case, the subtraction portion 175 subtracts from each of the items of pixel data contained in each of the regions obtained by dividing the pixel data y by N each of the items of corresponding pixel data that constitute the pixel data x, so that each of the items of difference data that constitute difference data df is obtained.

FIG. 12 shows outlined subtraction operations performed by the subtraction portion 175 in a case where $N=4$ for example, assuming, for simplicity, that the pixel data x is comprised of 2×2 items of pixel data and the pixel data y is comprised of 4×4 items of pixel data. The pixel data y is divided by 4 into A₁-A, B₁-B₄, C₁-C₄, and D₁-D₄. From each of the items of pixel data A₁-A₄, pixel data A that constitutes the pixel data x is subtracted so that each of the items of difference data a₁-a₄ that constitute the difference data df is obtained.

Further, from each of the items of pixel data B₁-B₄, pixel data B that constitutes the pixel data x is subtracted so that each of the items of difference data b₁-b₄ that constitute the difference data df is obtained. Further, from each of the items of pixel data C₁-C₄, pixel data C that constitutes the pixel data x is subtracted so that each of the items of pixel data c₁-c₄ that constitute the difference

data df is obtained. Further, from each of the items of pixel data D_1-D_4 , pixel data D that constitutes the pixel data x is subtracted so that each of the items of difference data d_1-d_4 that constitute the difference data df is obtained.

5 Next, such a case will be described that the difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 131 in the image-signal-processing portion 110 (see FIG. 1) is that of a DCT coefficient obtained through DCT processing.

10 In this case, to a low-frequency component portion, which corresponds to a DCT coefficient x, of each of the items of difference data that constitute the difference data DF, the corresponding one of DCT coefficients that constitute this DCT coefficient x is added, so that each of the DCT coefficients that constitute a DCT coefficient y is obtained.

15 FIG. 13 shows outlined addition operations performed by the addition portion 134 in a case where N=4, for example, assuming, for simplicity, that the DCT coefficient x is comprised of 2x2 DCT coefficients and the DCT coefficient y is comprised of 4x4 DCT coefficients.

20 To low-frequency component portions a-d, which correspond to the DCT coefficient x, of the items of difference data a-p that constitute the difference data DF, DCT coefficients A-D that constitute the DCT coefficient x are added so that DCT coefficients A'-D' that constitute the DCT coefficient y are obtained, respectively.

25 Further, items of the other difference data e-p of the DCT coefficient y provide the DCT coefficients e-p that constitute the DCT coefficient y as they are.

Further, the difference data DF in this case can be generated by the unit 210 for generating difference data shown in FIG. 6. In

this case, for example, after the MPEG encoder 153 is used to perform decoding, thinning-out processing is performed, to make the number of the items of pixel data that constitute the student signal SS equal to $(1/N)$ times the number of the items of pixel data that constitute the teacher signal ST. Accordingly, the number of the DCT coefficients that constitute the DCT coefficient y becomes N times the number of DCT coefficients that constitute the DCT coefficient x. For example, if $N=4$, the DCT coefficient x is comprised of 8×8 DCT coefficients and the DCT coefficient y is comprised of 16×16 DCT coefficients.

In this case, the subtraction portion 175 subtracts from low-frequency component portions, which correspond to the DCT coefficient x, of the DCT coefficients that constitute the DCT coefficient y, the DCT coefficients that constitute the DCT coefficient x, so that the items of difference data that constitute the difference data df are obtained.

FIG. 14 shows outlined subtraction operations performed by the subtraction portion 175 in a case where $N=4$ for example, assuming, for simplicity, that the DCT coefficient x is comprised of 2×2 DCT coefficients and the DCT coefficient y is comprised of 4×4 DCT coefficients. From low-frequency component portions $A'-D'$, which correspond to the DCT coefficient x, of the DCT coefficients $A'-p$ that constitute the DCT coefficient y, the DCT coefficients A-D that constitute the DCT coefficient x are subtracted, so that items of difference data a-d that constitute the difference data df are obtained. Further, the other DCT coefficients e-p of the DCT coefficient y provide the difference data e-p that constitute the difference data df as they are.

It is to be noted that instead of storing difference data of a DCT coefficient (frequency coefficient) obtained through DCT

processing in the accumulation table 131, the DCT coefficient itself may be stored. In this case, the DCT coefficient to be stored in the accumulation table 131 can be obtained by using the DCT coefficient y itself in place of difference data df obtained by subtracting the 5 DCT coefficient x from the DCT coefficient y in, for example, the unit 210 for generating difference data shown in FIG. 6.

In this case, by the addition portion 134 in the image-signal-processing portion 110, at least the low-frequency components, which correspond to the DCT coefficient x, of DCT coefficients 10 (correction data) from the accumulation table 131 are replaced by the corresponding DCT coefficients that constitute the DCT coefficient x, so that DCT coefficients that constitute the DCT coefficient y are obtained.

FIG. 15 shows outlined addition operations performed by the 15 addition portion 134 in a case where N=4 for example, assuming, for simplicity, that the DCT coefficient x is comprised of 2x2 DCT coefficients and the DCT coefficient y is comprised of 4x4 DCT coefficients.

Low-frequency component portions a-d, which correspond to the 20 DCT coefficient x, of frequency coefficients a-p that constitute DCT coefficient (correction data) are replaced by the DCT coefficients A-D that constitute the DCT coefficient x, so that the DCT coefficients A-D and e-p that constitute the DCT coefficient y are provided, respectively. It may be considered that not all of the portions of 25 e-p are used but some or all of them are used depending on, for example, classes.

Although the above-mentioned first embodiment has handled an MPEG2 stream involving DCT, the present invention is similarly applicable to handling of other encoded informational digital signals.

Further, encoding may involve, in place of DCT, any other orthogonal transformation such as wavelet transformation, discrete sine transformation, etc.

Further, although in the above-mentioned first embodiment the informational signal has been an image signal, the present invention is not limited to it. For example, the present invention is applicable similarly to a case where the informational signal is an audio signal.

The following will describe a second embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 16 shows a configuration of a digital broadcast receiver 100A according to the second embodiment.

The digital broadcast receiver 100A has an image-signal-processing portion 110A by which the image-signal-processing portion 110 in the digital broadcast receiver 100 shown in FIG. 1 is replaced and operates in the same way as the digital broadcast receiver 100.

It is to be noted that an MPEG2 decoder 107 in the digital broadcast receiver 100A has the same configuration and operates in the same way as the MPEG2 decoder 107 in the digital broadcast receiver 100 shown in FIG. 1 (see FIG. 2 and its explanation). However, in the MPEG2 decoder 107 in the digital broadcast receiver 100A, when an image signal V_a is output from the picture selection circuit 190, in addition to each of the items of pixel data that constitute this image signal V_a , pixel position mode information π_i for indicating which position of, for example, 8x8 pixel positions of a DCT block the pixel data has is also output with it being paired with each of the items of pixel data. This pixel position mode information π_i is used as information for class classification as described later.

The image-signal-processing portion 110A will be described in detail. Such components of this image-signal-processing portion 110A

as to correspond to those of the image-signal-processing portion 110 shown in FIG. 1 are indicated by the same symbols and so their description is omitted as appropriate.

This image-signal-processing portion 110A has a class 5 classification portion 130, an accumulation table 131, a DCT circuit 132, a transfer switch 133, an addition portion 134, an inverse DCT circuit 135, and a transfer switch 136, which are the same as the class classification portion 130, the accumulation table 131, the DCT circuit 132, the transfer switch 133, the addition portion 134, the 10 inverse DCT circuit 135, and the transfer switch 136, respectively, in the above-mentioned image-signal-processing portion 110 of FIG. 1 and so their description is omitted.

Further, this image-signal-processing portion 110A has a tap selection circuit 137 serving as data selection means for taking out 15 selectively and outputting, as data of a predictive tap, multiple items of data related to a target position in an image signal Vb based on output data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) of the addition portion 134.

The tap selection circuit 137 selectively takes out the multiple 20 items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the image signal Vb if difference data of pixel data is stored in the accumulation table 131 and the transfer switch 133 is connected to its b-side and used.

If difference data of a DCT coefficient is stored in the 25 accumulation table 131 and the transfer switch 133 is connected to its a-side and used, on the other hand, the tap selection circuit 137 selectively takes out plural DCT coefficients corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the image signal Vb. For example, as the plural DCT coefficients, DC coefficients are selected which

are present in a DCT coefficient block that corresponds to block data containing pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b and four DCT coefficient blocks adjacent to this DCT coefficient block.

Further, the image-signal-processing portion 110A has a
5 coefficient memory 138. This coefficient memory 138 stores, for each class, coefficient data W_i ($i=1, \dots, n$, n is the number of predictive taps) which is used in an estimate equation used by an estimate/predictive operation circuit 140, which will be described later. This coefficient memory 138 is supplied with a class code CLB
10 output from a class classification portion 139, which will be described later, as read address information. From this coefficient memory 138, the coefficient data W_i of an estimate equation that corresponds to the class code CLB is read and supplied to the estimate/predictive operation circuit 140. A method for generating the coefficient data
15 W_i will be described later.

Further, the image-signal-processing portion 110A has the class classification portion 139 as class detection means for detecting a class (second class) to which pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b belongs. This class classification portion 139
20 classifies classes in units of an item of pixel data or a DCT coefficient.

FIG. 17 shows a configuration of the class classification portion 139.

This class classification portion 139 has an input terminal 139A
25 through which the image signal V_a is input and tap selection circuits 139B₁ through 139B_n for selectively taking out multiple items of pixel data of class taps used to detect classes in units of an item of pixel data or a DCT coefficient to which pixel data y of the target position in the image signal V_b belongs, based on the image signal V_a input

through this input terminal 139A.

Further, the class classification portion 139 has class generation circuits 139C₁ through 139C_n for generating class codes CLB₁ through CLB_n that indicate n number of types of classes by using 5 items of pixel data, respectively, taken out by the tap selection circuits 139B₁ through 139B_n.

In the present embodiment, a class code CLB₁ that indicates one type of class is generated. This one type of class refers to a time/space waveform class. This class will be described briefly 10 below.

It is supposed that the tap selection circuit 138B₁ and the class generation circuit 139C₁ constitute a system for detecting this time/space waveform class.

The tap selection circuit 139B₁ selectively takes out and 15 outputs multiple items of data related to the target position in the image signal V_b similar to the above-mentioned tap selection circuit 137. The class generation circuit 139C₁ performs, for example, 1-bit ADRC etc. on each of the multiple items of data to generate a class code CLB₁ that indicates a space waveform class.

Further, the class classification portion 139 has an input 20 terminal 139D through which the pixel position mode information pi that corresponds to the target position in the image signal V_b is input and an input terminal 139E through which a class code CLA, which is a result of block-unit class classification performed by the 25 above-mentioned class classification portion 130, is input. The information pi that is input through the input terminal 139D provides as it is a class code CLB_p that indicates a pixel position mode class.

Further, the class classification portion 139 has a class integration circuit 139F for integrating class codes CLB₁ through CLB_n

generated by the class generation circuits 139C₁ through 139C_n, a class code CLB_p input through the input terminal 139D, and a class code CLA input through the input terminal 139E into one class code CLB and an output terminal 139G for outputting this class code CLB.

5 Again, referring back to FIG. 16, the image-signal-processing portion 110A further has the estimate/predictive operation circuit 140 for calculating the pixel data y related to the target position in the image signal V_b to be generated by using an estimate equation of Equation (1) from data x_i of a predictive tap taken out selectively 10 by the tap selection circuit 130 and coefficient data w_i read out of the coefficient memory 138.

$$y = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i \cdot x_i \quad \dots \quad (1)$$

15 The estimate/predictive operation circuit 140 generates pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b if multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the image signal V_b is taken out selectively by the tap selection circuit 137. If plural DCT coefficients corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the image signal V_b are taken out selectively by the tap selection circuit 137, on the other hand, the 20 estimate/predictive operation circuit 140 generates a DCT coefficient that corresponds to pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b. The data y calculated by this estimate/predictive operation circuit 140 is supplied to the inverse DCT circuit 135 and a b-side fixed terminal of the transfer switch 136.

25 The following will describe operations of this image-signal-processing portion 110A.

First, a case such that difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 131 is that of pixel data will be described. In

this case, the transfer switches 133 and 136 are each connected to the b-sides thereof.

The class classification portion 130 generates a class code CLA indicating a class to which pixel data of a target position in the image signal V_b belongs, based on the image signal V_a . This class code CLA is resulted from the block-unit class classification. This class code CLA is supplied to the accumulation table 131 as read address information. From the accumulation table 131, based on this class code CLA, difference data DF that corresponds to the target position in the image signal V_b is read and supplied to the addition portion 134.

Further, of the image signal V_a stored in the buffer memory 108, pixel data x_p that corresponds to the target position in the image signal V_b is supplied via the b-side of the transfer switch 133 to the addition portion 134. The addition portion 134 adds to this pixel data x_p the difference data DF read out of the accumulation table 131, corrects the pixel data x_p , thereby generating pixel data y_p that corresponds to the pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b .

Further, the class classification portion 139 generates a class code CLB that indicates a class to which pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b belongs, based on the image signal V_a , the pixel position mode information p_i , and the class code CLA. This class code CLB is resulted from the pixel-data-unit class classification. This class code CLB is supplied to the coefficient memory 138 as read address information. From the coefficient memory 138, coefficient data W_i that corresponds to the class code CLB is read and supplied to the estimate/predictive operation circuit 140.

Further, in the tap selection circuit 137, multiple items of

pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the image signal V_b are selectively taken out as pixel data of a predictive tap, based on the corrected pixel data y_p output from the addition portion 134. In the estimate/predictive operation circuit 140, pixel data y of the target position in the image signal V_b to be generated is obtained based on the above-mentioned Equation (1) by using the pixel data x_i of the predictive tap and the coefficient data W_i read out of the coefficient memory 138. This pixel data y is output via the b-side of the transfer switch 136 as an output signal of the image-signal-processing portion 110A. That is, this pixel data y constitutes the image signal V_b .

Next, a case such that difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 131 is that of a DCT coefficient obtained through DCT processing will be described. In this case, the transfer switches 133 and 136 are each connected to the a-sides thereof.

The class classification portion 130 generates a class code CLA that indicates a class to which pixel data of a target position in the image signal V_b belongs, based on the image signal V_a . This class code CLA is resulted from block-unit class classification. This class code CLA is supplied to the accumulation table 131 as read address information. From the accumulation table 131, based on this class code CLA, difference data DF corresponding to the target position in the image signal V_b is read and supplied to the addition portion 134.

A DCT coefficient x_p obtained at the DCT circuit 132 by performing DCT processing on multiple items of pixel data of the image signal V_a that correspond to the pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b is supplied via the a-side of the transfer switch 133 to the addition portion 134. The addition portion 134 adds to this DCT coefficient x_p the difference data DF , and corrects the DCT

coefficient x_p , thereby generating a DCT coefficient y_p that corresponds to the pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b .

Further, in the class classification portion 139, a class code 5 CLB indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b belongs, is generated based on the image signal V_a , the pixel position mode information p_i , and the class code CLA. This class code CLB is resulted from the pixel-data-unit class 10 classification. This class code CLB is supplied to the coefficient memory 138 as read address information. From the coefficient memory 138, coefficient data W_i that corresponds to the class code CLB is read and supplied to the estimate/predictive operation circuit 140.

Further, in the tap selection circuit 137, plural frequency 15 coefficients positioned in a periphery of the target position in the image signal V_b are selectively taken out as a frequency coefficient of a predictive tap based on the corrected DCT coefficient Y_p output from the addition position 134. In the estimate/predictive operation circuit 140, a DCT coefficient y corresponding to the pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b to be generated is obtained 20 based on the above-mentioned estimate equation of Equation (1) by using the frequency coefficient x_i of the predictive tap and the coefficient data W_i read out of the coefficient memory 138.

This DCT coefficient y is supplied to the inverse DCT circuit 135. In this inverse DCT circuit 135, inverse DCT processing is 25 performed on the DCT coefficient y so that pixel data is obtained. In such a manner, the pixel data output from the inverse DCT circuit 135 is output via the a-side of the transfer switch 136 as an output signal of the image-signal-processing portion 110A. That is, this pixel data constitutes the image signal V_b .

In such a manner, in the image-signal-processing portion 110A, when data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) x_p related to the image signal V_a is corrected to obtain data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) y_p related to the image signal V_b , a first class to which the data y_p 5 belongs is detected on the basis of the image signal V_a , so that difference data DF that corresponds to this detected class is added to the data x_p to obtain the data y_p in which an encoding noise is reduced, thereby enabling an image signal, as image signal V_b , in which its encoding noise is well reduced to be obtained.

10 Further, in the image-signal-processing portion 110A, the data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) y of the target position in the image signal V_b is obtained on the basis of an estimate equation by using the data x_i of a predictive tap selected on the basis of the corrected data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) and the coefficient 15 data W_i that corresponds to a second class to which the pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b belongs, so that, of the encoding noise in the informational signal obtained by decoding the encoded informational digital signal, the one yet remained by the correction processing by use of the above-mentioned difference data 20 (correction data) DF is well reduced.

Further, the class classification portion 139 generates the class code CLB as class classification in units of pixel data or DCT coefficient, whereas the class classification portion 130 generates the class code CLA as class classification in units of block. That 25 is, class classification in the class classification portion 139 is the one obtained by making class classification that is made in the class classification portion 130 finer.

In this case, the number of classes classified in the class classification portion 130 can be made smaller, so that the number

of items of difference data to be stored in the accumulation table 131 can be made smaller correspondingly, thereby saving on a memory capacity of the accumulation table 131. It is to be noted that if such a memory capacity of the accumulation table 131 is not taken into account, such a configuration can also be provided that, for example, a class code CLB generated by the class classification portion 139 may be used as read address information for the coefficient memory 138 as well as for the accumulation table 131.

The following will describe a method for generating the coefficient data W_i to be stored in the coefficient memory 138 in the image-signal-processing portion 110A of FIG. 16. This coefficient data W_i is generated by learning beforehand.

First, this learning method will be described. In above-mentioned Equation (1), before learning, items of coefficient data W_1, W_2, \dots, W_n are undetermined coefficients. The learning is performed for each class on the multiple items of signal data. If the number of the items of learning data is m , in accordance with Equation (1), the following Equation (2) is set.

$$y_k = W_1 \times x_{k1} + W_2 \times x_{k2} + \dots + W_n \times x_{kn} \quad \dots(2)$$

($k=1, 2, \dots, m$)

where n indicates the number of predictive taps.

If $m > n$, the items of coefficient data W_1, W_2, \dots, W_n are not determined uniquely, so that an element e_k of an error vector e is defined by the following Equation (3), to obtain coefficient data that minimizes e^2 in Equation (4). The coefficient data is determined uniquely by so-called the least-squares method.

$$e_k = y_k - \{W_1 \times x_{k1} + W_2 \times x_{k2} + \dots + W_n \times x_{kn}\} \dots(3)$$

($k=1, 2, \dots, m$)

$$e^2 = \sum_{k=1}^m e_k^2 \quad \dots \quad (4)$$

According to an actual method for calculating to obtain the coefficient data that minimizes e^2 in Equation (4), first, as indicated in Equation (5), e^2 can be partially differentiated by using the 5 coefficient data W_i ($i=1, 2, \dots, n$), to obtain the coefficient data W_i in such a manner that a partially differentiated value may be 0 for each value of i .

$$\frac{\partial e^2}{\partial W_i} = \sum_{k=1}^m 2 \left[\frac{\partial e_k}{\partial W_i} \right] e_k = \sum_{k=1}^m 2 x_{ki} \cdot e_k \quad \dots \quad (5)$$

The following will describe a specific procedure for obtaining 10 the coefficient data W_i by using Equation (5). By defining X_{ij} and Y_{ij} as indicated by Equations (6) and (7) respectively, Equation (5) can be rewritten into a determinant of Equation (8).

$$X_{ji} = \sum_{p=1}^m x_{pi} \cdot x_{pj} \quad \dots \quad (6)$$

$$Y_i = \sum_{k=1}^m x_{ki} \cdot y_k \quad \dots \quad (7)$$

15

$$\begin{bmatrix} X_{11} & X_{12} & \dots & X_{1n} \\ X_{21} & X_{22} & \dots & X_{2n} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ X_{n1} & X_{n2} & \dots & X_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} W_1 \\ W_2 \\ \dots \\ W_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Y_1 \\ Y_2 \\ \dots \\ Y_n \end{bmatrix} \quad \dots \quad (8)$$

Equation (8) is generally referred to as a normal equation. By solving this normal equation with a general solution such as 20 sweeping-out (Gauss-Jordan elimination), the coefficient data W_i ($i=1, 2, \dots, n$) can be solved.

FIG. 18 shows a configuration of a unit 250A for generating coefficient data W_i to be stored in the coefficient memory 138 in the

image-signal-processing portion 110A of FIG. 16.

This unit 250A for generating coefficient data has an input terminal 251 through which a teacher signal ST corresponding to the image signal Vb is input, an MPEG2 encoder 252 for encoding this teacher signal ST to obtain an MPEG2 stream, and an MEPG2 decoder 253 for decoding this MPEG2 stream to obtain a student signal SS that corresponds to the image signal Va. It is to be noted that the MPEG2 decoder 253 corresponds to the MPEG2 decoder 107 and the buffer memory 108 in the digital broadcast receiver 100A shown in FIG. 16.

Further, the unit 250A for generating coefficient data has a DCT circuit 254 for obtaining a DCT coefficient by performing DCT processing on the student signal SS output from the MPEG2 decoder 253 and a transfer switch 255 whose a-side fixed terminal is supplied with a DCT coefficient output from this DCT circuit 254 and whose b-side fixed terminal is supplied with the student signal SS output from the MPEG2 decoder 253.

This transfer switch 255 is connected to the b-side thereof if difference data DF stored in an accumulation table 256, which will be described later, is that of pixel data and to the a-side if it is that of a DCT coefficient obtained through DCT processing.

Further, the unit 250A for generating coefficient data has the accumulation table 256. The accumulation table 256 beforehand stores for each class the difference data DF as correction data for correcting an encoding noise (encoding distortion), similar to the accumulation table 131 in the image-signal-processing portion 110A of FIG. 16.

This accumulation table 256 is supplied with a class code CLA output from a class classification portion 260, which will be described later, as read address information. From this accumulation table 156, difference data DF that corresponds to the class code CLA is read and

supplied to an addition portion 262, which will be described later.

The class classification portion 260 is used to detect a class to which pixel data of a target position in the teacher signal ST belongs. This class classification portion 260, detailed description of which 5 is omitted though, is arranged in the same way as the class classification portion 130 in the image processing portion 110A shown in FIG. 16 in that it performs block-unit class classification based on the student signal SS to generate a class code CLA that indicates a class to which the pixel data of the target position in the teacher 10 signal ST belongs.

Further, the unit 250A for generating coefficient data has a DCT circuit 258 for performing DCT processing on the teacher signal ST time-adjusted by a delay circuit 257 to obtain a DCT coefficient and a transfer switch 259 whose a-side fixed terminal is supplied with 15 the DCT coefficient output from this DCT circuit 258 and whose b-side fixed terminal is supplied with the teacher signal ST time-adjusted by the delay circuit 257. This transfer switch 259 is connected to the b-side thereof if difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 256 is that of pixel data and to the a-side if it 20 is that of a DCT coefficient obtained through DCT processing.

Further, the unit 250A for generating coefficient data has the addition portion 262 serving as correction means for adding the difference data DF read out of the accumulation table 256 to data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) x_p , which corresponds to a target position 25 in the teacher signal ST, output from a movable terminal of the transfer switch 255, thus generating data y_p (pixel data or DCT coefficient) of the target position in the teacher signal ST.

It is to be noted that items of data x_p and y_p are each block data corresponding to a DCT block, which is used as a unit in DCT

processing. In the present embodiment, the number of items of data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) that constitute the data y_p is equal to that of items of data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) that constitute the data x_p .

5 In this case, the number of the items of pixel data that constitute the teacher signal ST is equal to that of the items of pixel data that constitute the student signal SS. For example, if the data x_p is comprised of 8x8 items of data, 8x8 items of data are generated in the addition portion 262 as the data y_p . In this case, the
10 difference data DF supplied from the accumulation table 256 to the addition portion 262 is also comprised of 8x8 items of data.

Further, the unit 250A for generating coefficient data has a tap selection circuit 263, as data selection means, for taking out selectively and outputting, as data of a predictive tap, multiple items
15 of data related to the target position in the teacher signal ST based on output data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) of the addition portion 262.

This tap selection circuit 263 is arranged in the same way as the tap selection circuit 137 in the image-signal-processing device
20 110A of FIG. 16. This tap selection circuit 263 selectively takes out multiple items of data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal V_b if difference data of pixel data is stored in the accumulation table 256 and the transfer switch 255 is connected to its b-side and used.

25 If difference data of a DCT coefficient is stored in the accumulation table 256 and the transfer switch 255 is connected to its a-side and used, on the other hand, the tap selection circuit 263 selectively takes out plural DCT coefficients that correspond to the periphery of the target position in the teacher signal ST. For example,

as the plural DCT coefficients, DC coefficients are selected which are present in a DCT coefficient block that corresponds to block data containing pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST and four DCT coefficient blocks adjacent to this DCT coefficient 5 block.

Further, the unit 250A for generating coefficient data has a class classification portion 264. This class classification portion 264, detailed description of which is omitted, is arranged in the same way as the class classification portion 139 in the image-signal- 10 processing portion 110A shown in FIG. 16 in that it performs class classification in units of pixel data or DCT coefficient based on the student signal SS, pixel position mode information π_i , and a class code CLA generated by the class classification portion 260, to generate a class code CLB that indicates a class to which pixel data of the 15 target position in the teacher signal ST belongs.

Further, the unit 250A for generating coefficient data has a normal equation generation portion 265 for generating a normal equation (see the above-mentioned Equation (8)) for obtaining coefficient data W_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) for each class by using data (pixel data 20 or DCT coefficient) y of each target position in the teacher signal ST, the data y being output from a movable terminal of the transfer switch 259, data x_i of a predictive tap selectively taken out by the tap selection circuit 263 corresponding to this data y of each target position, and a class code CLB generated by the class classification 25 portion 264 corresponding to pixel data of each target position.

In this case, although one item of data y and the n number of data x_i of a predictive tap corresponding thereto are combined to generate one item of learning data, many items of learning data are generated for each class. Accordingly, a normal equation for

obtaining the coefficient data W_i is generated for each class by the normal equation generation portion 265.

Further, the unit 250A for generating coefficient data has a coefficient data determination portion 266 which is supplied with data 5 of a normal equation generated by the normal equation generation portion 265 and solves this normal equation to obtain coefficient data W_i of each class and a coefficient memory 267 for storing this obtained coefficient data W_i of each class.

The following will describe operations of the unit 250A for 10 generating coefficient data shown in FIG. 18.

First, a case such that the difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 256 is that of pixel data will be described. In this case, the transfer switches 255 and 259 are each connected to the b-sides thereof.

15 A teacher signal ST that corresponds to the image signal V_b is supplied to the input terminal 251 and encoded by the MPEG2 encoder 252 where an MPEG2 stream is generated. This MPEG2 stream is supplied to the MPEG2 decoder 253. The MPEG2 decoder 253 decodes the MPEG2 stream to generate the student signal SS corresponding to the image 20 signal V_a .

In the class classification portion 260, based on the student signal SS, a class code CLA indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST belongs is generated. This class code CLA is resulted from block-unit class classification. 25 This class code CLA is supplied to the accumulation table 256 as read address information. From the accumulation table 256, based on this class code CLA, the difference data DF that corresponds to the target position in the teacher signal ST is read and supplied to the addition portion 262.

Further, of data of the student signal SS obtained by the MPEG2 decoder 253, the pixel data x_p corresponding to the target position in the teacher signal ST is supplied via the b-side of the transfer switch 255 to the addition portion 262. In the addition portion 262, 5 the difference data DF read out of the accumulation table 256 is added to this pixel data x_p , and corrected so that pixel data y_p corresponding to the pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST is generated.

In the class classification portion 264, a class code CLB 10 indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST belongs, is generated based on the student signal SS, the pixel position mode information p_i , and the class code CLA. This class code CLB is resulted from the pixel-data-unit class 15 classification. Further, in the tap selection circuit 263, multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal ST are selectively taken out as pixel data x_i of a predictive tap based on the corrected pixel data y_p output from the addition portion 262.

In the normal equation generation portion 265, a normal 20 equation (see the above-mentioned Equation (8)) for obtaining coefficient data W_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) for each class is generated by using the pixel data y of each target position obtained from the teacher signal ST time-adjusted by the delay circuit 257, the pixel data x_i of the predictive tap selectively taken out by the tap selection 25 circuit 263 corresponding to the pixel data y of each target position, and a class code CLB generated by the class classification portion 264 corresponding to the pixel data y of each target position.

Then, this normal equation is solved in the coefficient data determination portion 266 where the coefficient data W_i of each class

is obtained, and the coefficient data W_i is stored in the coefficient memory 267.

Next, a case such that difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 256 is that of a DCT coefficient obtained through 5 DCT processing will be described. In this case, the transfer switches 255 and 259 are each connected to the a-sides thereof.

A teacher signal ST corresponding to the image signal V_b is supplied to the input terminal 251 and encoded by the MPEG2 encoder 252 where an MPEG2 stream is generated. This MPEG2 stream is supplied 10 to the MPEG2 decoder 253. The MPEG2 decoder 253 decodes this MPEG2 stream to generate a student signal SS that corresponds to the image signal V_a .

In the class classification portion 260, based on the student signal SS, a class code CLA indicating a class to which pixel data 15 of a target position in the teacher signal ST belongs is generated. This class code CLA is resulted from the block-unit class classification. This class code CLA is supplied to the accumulation table 256 as read address information. From the accumulation table 256, based on this class code CLA, the difference data DF that 20 corresponds to the target position in the teacher signal ST is read and supplied to the addition portion 262.

Further, of data of the student signal SS obtained by the MPEG2 decoder 253, pixel data corresponding to the target position in the teacher signal ST undergoes DCT processing at the DCT circuit 254, 25 a DCT coefficient x_p obtained as a result of which is supplied via the a-side of the transfer switch 255 to the addition portion 262. In the addition portion 262, the difference data DF read out of the accumulation table 256 is added to this DCT coefficient x_p and corrected, so that a DCT coefficient y_p that corresponds to the pixel

data of the target position in the teacher signal ST is generated.

In the class classification portion 264, a class code CLB that indicates a class to which the pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST belongs, is generated based on the student signal 5 SS, the pixel position mode information p_i , and the class code CLA. This class code CLB is resulted from the pixel-data-unit class classification.

Further, in the tap selection circuit 263, plural DCT coefficients positioned in a periphery of the target position in the 10 teacher signal ST are selectively taken out as a DCT coefficient x_i of a predictive tap based on the corrected DCT coefficient y_p output from the addition portion 262.

Further, DCT processing is performed in the DCT circuit 258 on pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST time-adjusted by the delay circuit 257. In the normal equation generation 15 portion 265, a normal equation (see the above-mentioned Equation (8)) for obtaining coefficient data W_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) is generated for each class by using a DCT coefficient y that corresponds to the pixel data of each target position obtained by this DCT circuit 258, a DCT 20 coefficient x_i of a predictive tap selectively taken out by the tap selection circuit 263 corresponding to each of the DCT coefficients y , and a class code CLB generated by the class classification portion 264 corresponding to the pixel data of each target position.

Then, this normal equation is solved in the coefficient data 25 determination portion 266 where the coefficient data W_i of each class is obtained, and the coefficient data W_i is stored in the coefficient memory 267.

In such a manner, in the unit 250A for generating coefficient data shown in FIG. 18, it is possible to generate the coefficient data

Wi for each class to be stored in the coefficient memory 138 in the image-signal-processing portion 110A of FIG. 16.

This coefficient data Wi has been generated by adding, at the addition portion 262, difference data DF to the data (pixel data or 5 DCT coefficient) x_p related to the student signal SS and correcting the data, and selectively taking out the data x_i as a predictive tap based on this corrected data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) y_p and using the data x_i . Therefore, in the image-signal-processing portion 110A shown in FIG. 16, in the image signal Vb obtained from the image 10 signal Va through an estimate equation by use of this coefficient data Wi, an encoding noise yet remained by correction by means of addition of the difference data DF is well reduced.

It is to be noted that the processing in the image-signal-processing portion 110A of FIG. 16 can also be realized in software 15 by, for example, the apparatus 300 for processing image signal of FIG. 8.

The following will describe a processing procedure for obtaining the image signal Vb from the image signal Va with reference to a flowchart of FIG. 19.

20 First, at step ST101 the process starts processing, and at step ST102 it inputs through, for example, the input terminal 314 one frame or one field of the image signal Va into the apparatus. In such a manner, items of pixel data that constitutes the image signal Va input through the input terminal 314 are stored in the RAM303 temporarily. 25 It is to be noted that if this image signal Va has recorded in the hard disk drive 305 in the device beforehand, this image signal Va is read out of this drive 305 to temporarily store the items of pixel data that constitutes this image signal Va in the RAM303.

At step ST103, it decides whether processing of all the frames

or fields of the image signal Va has finished. If the processing has finished, the process ends the processing at step ST104. Otherwise, it goes to step ST105.

At this step ST105, the process performs block-unit class classification based on the image signal Va input at step ST102, to generate a class code CLA that indicates a class to which pixel data of a target position in the image signal Vb belongs. At step ST106, based on the class code CLA generated at step ST105, the process reads difference data DF that corresponds to that class code CLA from the ROM302 etc. and adds the difference data DF to pixel data x_p that corresponds to the target position in the image signal Vb among multiple items of pixel data that constitute the image signal Va and corrects it, to generate pixel data y_p that corresponds to pixel data of the target position in the image signal Vb.

Next, at step ST107, it decides whether the processing to obtain the pixel data y_p is finished in all regions of the pixel data in the image signal Va input at step ST102. If the processing has finished, the process goes to step ST108. Otherwise, it returns to step ST105 to shift to processing of the next target position.

At step ST108, the process performs pixel-data-unit class classification based on the image signal Va input at step ST102, the pixel position mode information π_i input as paired with pixel data of this image signal Va, and the class code CLA generated at the above-mentioned step ST105, to generate a class code CLB that indicates a class to which pixel data of the target position in the image signal Vb belongs.

Next, at step ST109, the process acquires multiple items of pixel data (pixel data of a predictive tap) positioned in a periphery of the target position in the image signal Vb based on the pixel data

5 y_p corrected at step ST106. At step ST110, the process reads out of the ROM302 etc. coefficient data W_i that corresponds to the class code CLB generated at step ST108 based on that class code CLB and uses this coefficient data W_i and the pixel data x_i of the predictive tap to generate pixel data y of the target position in the image signal V_b by using an estimate equation (see Equation (1)).

10 Next, at step ST111, the process decides whether the processing to obtain pixel data of the image signal V_b has finished in all regions of the pixel data of the image signal V_a input at step ST102. If the processing has not yet finished, the process returns to step ST108 to shift to processing of the next target position. If it has finished, on the other hand, the process returns to step ST102 to shift to processing of inputting the next one frame or one field of the image signal V_a .

15 In this case, if the difference data DF stored in the ROM302 etc. is that of a DCT coefficient which is obtained by DCT processing, the process performs DCT processing on the image signal V_a input at step DT102, to provide data x_p to which the difference data DF is to be added, as a DCT coefficient. In this case, at step ST106, as a 20 result of the addition, a DCT coefficient y_p is obtained.

25 Further, at step ST109, the process acquires plural DCT coefficients that corresponds to the periphery of the target position in the image signal V_b based on the DCT coefficient y_p corrected at step ST106. For example, as the plural DCT coefficients, the process acquires DC coefficients which are present in a DCT coefficient block that corresponds to block data containing pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b and four DCT coefficient blocks adjacent to this DCT coefficient block.

Further, since the data y obtained by an estimate equation at

step ST110 is a DCT coefficient, the process further performs inverse DCT processing thereon to generate pixel data of the target position in the image signal Vb.

In such a manner, by performing the processing along the 5 flowchart shown in FIG. 19, it is possible to process pixel data of the input image signal Va, thereby obtaining pixel data of the image signal Vb. As described above, the image signal Vb thus processed and obtained is output to the output terminal 315 or supplied to the display portion 311 where an image due to the signal may be displayed 10 or, further, supplied to the hard disk drive 305 where it is recorded on a hard disk.

Further, although a processing unit is not shown, processing in the unit 250A for generating coefficient data of FIG. 18 can also be realized in software.

15 The following will describe a processing procedure for generating coefficient data with reference to a flowchart of FIG. 20.

First, at step ST141, the process starts processing, and at step ST142, it inputs one frame or one field of the teacher signal. At step ST143, it decides whether processing of all the frames or fields 20 of the teacher signal has finished. If the processing has not yet finished, the process goes to step ST144 where a student signal is generated from the teacher signal input at step ST142.

At step ST145, the process performs block-unit class 25 classification based on the student signal SS generated at step ST144, to generate a class code CLA that indicates a class to which pixel data of a target position in the teacher signal ST belongs.

Next, at step ST146, based on the class code CLA generated at step ST145, the process reads out of the ROM etc. difference data DF that corresponds to that class code CLA and adds the difference

data DF to pixel data x_p that corresponds to the target position in the teacher signal ST among multiple items of pixel data that constitute the student signal SS and corrects it, to generate pixel data y_p that corresponds to pixel data of the target position in the

5 teacher signal ST.

At step ST147, it decides whether the processing to obtain the pixel data y_p has finished in all regions of the pixel data of the student signal SS generated at step ST144. If the processing has finished, the process goes to step ST148. Otherwise, it returns to
10 step ST145 to shift to processing of the next target position.

At step ST148, the process performs pixel-data-unit class classification thereon based on the student signal SS generated at step ST144, pixel position mode information π_i obtained so as to correspond to pixel data of the student signal SS that corresponds
15 to pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal, although not described above, and the class code CLA generated at the above-mentioned step ST145, to generate a class code CLB that indicates a class to which pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST belongs.

20 Next, at step ST149, the process acquires multiple items of pixel data (pixel data of a predictive tap) x_i positioned in a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal ST based on the pixel data y_p corrected at step ST146. At step ST150, the process decides whether learning processing has finished in all regions of the one
25 frame or field of the pixel data of the teacher signal input at step ST142. If learning processing has finished, the process returns to step ST142 to input the next one frame or field of the teacher signal, thus repeating the same processing as described above. Otherwise, the process goes to step ST151.

At this step ST151, the process generates a normal equation (see Equation (8)) for obtaining the coefficient data W_i for each class by using the class code CLB generated at step ST148, the multiple items of pixel data x_i acquired at step ST149, and the pixel data y of the 5 target position in the teacher signal ST and then returns to step ST148 to shift to the processing of the next target position.

If the processing has finished at the above-mentioned step ST143, the process, at above-mentioned step ST152, solves the normal equation generated at step ST151 by a sweeping-out method etc., to calculate 10 coefficient data of each class. At step ST153, the process saves the coefficient data of each class in the memory and ends the processing at step ST154.

In such a manner, by performing the processing along the flowchart shown in FIG. 20, it is possible to obtain coefficient data 15 W_i of each class by using the same method as that for the unit 250A for generating coefficient data shown in FIG. 18.

If, in this case, the difference data DF stored in the ROM etc. is that of a DCT coefficient which is obtained through DCT processing, the process performs DCT processing on the student signal SS generated 20 at step ST144, to provide data x_p to which the difference data DF is to be added, as a DCT coefficient. Accordingly, the DCT coefficient y_p is obtained as a result of the addition at step ST146.

Further, at step ST149, the process acquires plural DCT coefficients that correspond to the periphery of the target position 25 in the teacher signal ST based on the DCT coefficient y_p corrected at step ST146. For example, as the plural DCT coefficients, the process acquires DC coefficients which are present in a DCT coefficient block that corresponds to block data containing pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST and four DCT coefficient

blocks adjacent to this DCT coefficient block.

Further, in this case, when generating a normal equation at step ST151, the process obtains a DCT coefficient y that constitute learning data with it being paired with plural DCT coefficients xi acquired at 5 step ST149 by performing DCT processing on the pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST.

The following will describe a third embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 21 shows a configuration of a digital broadcast receiver 100B according to the third embodiment. In this FIG. 21, components corresponding to those of FIG. 16 are indicated by the same symbols.

The digital broadcast receiver 100B has an image-signal-processing portion 110B by which the image-signal-processing portion 110A of the digital broadcast receiver 100A shown in FIG. 16 is replaced 15 and operates in the same way as the digital broadcast receiver 100A.

The following will describe details of the image-signal-processing portion 110B. In this image-signal-processing portion 110B, components corresponding to those of the image-signal-processing portion 110A shown in FIG. 16 are indicated by the same symbols and their detailed description will be omitted.

This image-signal-processing portion 110B has a tap selection circuit 141 serving as data selection means for taking out selectively and outputting, as item(s) of data xi ($i=1-m$) of a predictive tap, multiple items of data corresponding to a target position in an image 25 signal Vb based on data (pixel data or DCT coefficient), which correspond to the target position in the image signal Vb , output from a movable terminal of a transfer switch 133.

The tap selection circuit 141 selectively takes out multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position

in the image signal Vb if difference data of pixel data is stored in an accumulation table 131 and the transfer switch 133 is connected to its b-side and used.

If difference data of a DCT coefficient is stored in the 5 accumulation table 131 and the transfer switch 133 is connected to its a-side and used, on the other hand, the tap selection circuit 141 selectively takes out plural DCT coefficients corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the image signal Vb. For example, as the plural DCT coefficients, DC coefficients are selected which 10 are present in a DCT coefficient block that corresponds to block data containing pixel data of the target position in the image signal Vb and four DCT coefficient blocks adjacent to this DCT coefficient block.

Further, the image-signal-processing portion 110B has a tap selection circuit 142 serving as data selection means for taking out 15 selectively and outputting, as item(s) of data x_i ($i=m+1, \dots, n$) of a predictive tap, multiple items of difference data corresponding to the multiple items of data selected by the above-mentioned tap selection circuit 141, based on difference data DF read out of the accumulation table 131 corresponding to a class code CLA output from 20 a class classification portion 130.

Further, the image-signal-processing portion 110B has an estimate/predictive operation circuit 143 for calculating pixel data y related to the target position in the image signal Vb to be generated by using an estimate equation of Equation (1) from the items of data 25 x_i of predictive taps taken out selectively by the tap selection circuits 141 and 142 and coefficient data W_i read out of the coefficient memory 138 corresponding to a class code CLB output from a class classification portion 139.

The estimate/predictive operation circuit 143 generates pixel

data of the target position in the image signal V_b if multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the image signal V_b are selectively taken out in the tap selection circuit 141. If the plural DCT coefficients corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the image signal V_b are selectively taken out, on the other hand, the estimate/predictive operation circuit 143 generates a DCT coefficient corresponding to pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b .

The other components of the image-signal-processing portion 110B have the same configurations as those of the image-signal-processing portion 110A shown in FIG. 16.

The following will describe operations of this image-signal-processing portion 110B.

First, a case such that difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 131 is that of pixel data will be described. In this case, the transfer switches 133 and 136 are each connected to the b-sides thereof.

The tap selection circuit 141 selectively takes out the multiple items of pixel data positioned in the periphery of the target position in the image signal V_b as item(s) of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, m$) of the predictive tap, based on an image signal V_a stored in a buffer memory 108.

In the class classification portion 130, based on the image signal V_a , a class code CLA indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b belongs is generated. This class code CLA is resulted from the block-unit class classification. This class code CLA is supplied to the accumulation table 131 as read address information. From the accumulation table 131, based on this class code CLA , difference data DF corresponding to the target position in the image signal V_b is read.

In the tap selection circuit 142, based on the difference data DF read out of the accumulation table 131, multiple items of difference data that correspond to the multiple items of pixel data selected by the above-mentioned tap selection circuit 141 are selectively taken 5 out as item(s) of data x_i ($i=m+1, \dots, n$) of a predictive tap.

The class classification portion 139 generates a class code CLB indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b belongs, based on the image signal V_a , pixel position mode information p_i , and the class code CLA. This class code CLB is 10 resulted from the pixel-data-unit class classification. This class code CLB is supplied to the coefficient memory 138 as read address information. From the coefficient memory 138, coefficient data W_i that corresponds to the class code CLB is read and supplied to the estimate/predictive operation circuit 143.

15 In the estimate/predictive operation circuit 143, the pixel data y of the target position in the image signal V_b to be generated is obtained based on the above-mentioned Equation (1) by using items of data x_i of predictive taps selectively taken out by the tap selection circuits 141 and 142 and the coefficient data W_i read out of the 20 coefficient memory 138. This pixel data y is output via the b-side of the transfer switch 136 as an output signal of the image-signal-processing portion 110B. That is, this pixel data y constitutes the image signal V_b .

Next, a case such that difference data DF stored in the 25 accumulation table 131 is that of a DCT coefficient obtained through DCT processing will be described. In this case, the transfer switches 133 and 136 are each connected to the a-sides thereof.

The tap selection circuit 141 selectively takes out the plural DCT coefficients corresponding to the periphery of the target position

in the image signal V_b as item(s) of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, m$) of a predictive tap, based on a DCT coefficient, which is received from the DCT circuit 132 and corresponds to pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b , obtained by performing DCT processing on the multiple items 5 of pixel data of the image signal V_a .

In the class classification portion 130, based on the image signal V_a , a class code CLA indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b belongs is generated. This class code CLA is resulted from the block-unit class 10 classification. This class code CLA is supplied to the accumulation table 131 as read address information. From the accumulation table 131, based on this class code CLA, the difference data DF corresponding to the target position in the image signal V_b is read.

In the tap selection circuit 142, the multiple items of 15 difference data that correspond to the plural DCT coefficients selected by the above-mentioned tap selection circuit 141 are selectively taken out as item(s) of data x_i ($i=m+1, \dots, n$) of a predictive tap, based on the difference data DF read out of the accumulation table 131.

20 In the class classification portion 139, the class code CLB indicating a class to which the pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b belongs, is generated based on the image signal V_a , the pixel position mode information p_i , and the class code CLA. This class code CLB is resulted from the pixel-data-unit (DCT- 25 coefficient-unit) class classification. This class code CLB is supplied to the coefficient memory 138 as read address information. From the coefficient memory 138, the coefficient data W_i corresponding to the class code CLB is read and supplied to the estimate/predictive operation circuit 143.

In the estimate/predictive operation circuit 143, the DCT coefficient y corresponding to the pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b to be generated is obtained based on the above-mentioned estimate equation of Equation (1) by using the items 5 of data x_i of predictive taps selectively taken out by the tap selection circuits 141 and 142 and the coefficient data W_i read out of the coefficient memory 138.

This DCT coefficient y is then supplied to an inverse DCT circuit 135. This inverse DCT circuit 135 performs inverse DCT 10 processing on the DCT coefficient y to obtain pixel data. In such a manner, the pixel data output from the inverse DCT circuit 135 is output via the a-side of the transfer switch 136 as an output signal of the image-signal-processing portion 110B. That is, this pixel data constitutes the image signal V_b .

15 In such a manner, in the image-signal-processing portion 110B, when the image signal V_a is converted to obtain the image signal V_b , item(s) of data x_i of the predictive tap are selected on the basis of the data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) related to the image signal V_a and based on the difference data (correction data) DF that 20 corresponds to a first class to which pixel data of a target position in the image signal V_b belongs, item(s) of data x_i of the predictive tap are selected and also, using these items of data x_i of the predictive tap and the coefficient data W_i that corresponds to a second class to which pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b belongs, 25 the data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) y of the target position in the image signal V_b is obtained based on the estimate equation.

This operation is basically equivalent to that for, as in the image-signal-processing portion 110A shown in FIG. 16, correcting data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) x_p related to the image signal V_a to

obtain the data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) y_p related to the image signal V_b and using item(s) of data x_i of the predictive tap selected on the basis of this corrected data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) and the coefficient data W_i , the data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) 5 y of the target position in the image signal V_b is obtained based on an estimate equation, thus enabling a signal having its well reduced encoding noise as the image signal V_b to be obtained.

The following will describe a unit 250B for generating coefficient data W_i to be stored in the coefficient memory 138 in the 10 image-signal-processing portion 110B shown in FIG. 21. FIG. 22 shows a configuration of the unit 250B for generating coefficient data. In FIG. 22, components that correspond to those of FIG. 18 are indicated by the same symbols.

The unit 250B for generating coefficient data has a tap selection 15 circuit 271 serving as data selection means for taking out selectively and outputting, as item(s) of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, m$) of a predictive tap, multiple items of data related to a target position in a teacher signal ST based on data (pixel data or DCT coefficient), which is output from a movable terminal of a transfer switch 255, corresponding to the 20 target position in the teacher signal ST.

This tap selection circuit 271 has the same configuration as that of the tap selection 141 in the image-signal-processing device 110B of FIG. 21. The tap selection circuit 271 selectively takes out multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target 25 position in the teacher signal ST if difference data of pixel data is stored in an accumulation table 256 and the transfer switches 255 and 259 are each connected to b-sides thereof and used.

If difference data of a DCT coefficient is stored in the accumulation table 256 and the transfer switches 255 and 259 are each

connected to a-sides thereof and used, on the other hand, the tap selection circuit 271 selectively takes out plural DCT coefficients corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the teacher signal ST. For example, as the plural DCT coefficients, DC 5 coefficients are selected which are present in a DCT coefficient block that corresponds to block data containing pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST and four DCT coefficient blocks adjacent to this DCT coefficient block.

Further, the unit 250B for generating coefficient data has a 10 tap selection circuit 272 serving as data selection means for taking out selectively and outputting, as item(s) of data x_i ($i=m+1, \dots, n$) of a predictive tap, multiple items of difference data that correspond to the multiple items of data selected by the above-mentioned tap selection circuit 271, based on difference data DF read out of the 15 accumulation table 256 corresponding to a class code CLA output from a class classification portion 260. This tap selection circuit 272 has the same configuration as that of the tap selection circuit 142 in the image-signal-processing portion 110B of FIG. 21.

Further, the unit 250B for generating coefficient data has a 20 normal equation generation portion 273 for generating a normal equation (see the above-mentioned Equation (8)) for obtaining item(s) of coefficient data W_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) for each class by using the data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) y , which is output from a movable terminal of the transfer switch 259, of each target position in the teacher 25 signal ST, the items of data x_i of predictive taps selectively taken out by the tap selection circuits 271 and 272, and a class code CLB output from a class classification portion 264.

In this case, although one item of data y and the n number of items of data x_i of a predictive tap corresponding thereto are combined

to generate one item of learning data, many items of the learning data are generated for each class. Accordingly, a normal equation for obtaining the coefficient data W_i is generated for each class in the normal equation generation portion 273.

5 The following will describe operations of the unit 250B for generating coefficient data shown in FIG. 22.

First, a case such that difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 256 is that of pixel data will be described. In this case, the transfer switches 255 and 259 are each connected to 10 the b-sides thereof.

A teacher signal ST that corresponds to the image signal V_b is supplied to the input terminal 251 and encoded by the MPEG2 encoder 252 where an MPEG2 stream is generated. This MPEG2 stream is supplied to the MPEG2 decoder 253. The MPEG2 decoder 253 decodes the MPEG2 15 stream to generate the student signal SS corresponding to the image signal V_a .

In the tap selection circuit 271, based on the student signal SS output from the MPEG2 decoder 253, the multiple items of pixel data positioned in the periphery of the target position in the teacher 20 signal ST are selectively taken out as item(s) of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, m$) of the predictive tap.

In the class classification portion 260, based on the student signal SS, a class code CLA indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST belongs is generated. 25 This class code CLA is resulted from the block-unit class classification. This class code CLA is supplied to the accumulation table 256 as read address information. From the accumulation table 256, based on this class code CLA, the difference data DF that corresponds to the target position in the teacher signal ST is read.

In the tap selection circuit 272, based on the difference data DF read out of the accumulation table 256, multiple items of difference data that correspond to the multiple items of pixel data selected by the above-mentioned tap selection circuit 271 are selectively taken 5 out as item(s) of data x_i ($i=m+1, \dots, n$) of the predictive tap.

In the class classification portion 264, a class code CLB indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST belongs, is generated based on the student signal SS, the pixel position mode information p_i , and the class code CLA.

10 In the normal equation generation portion 273, generates a normal equation (see Equation (8)) for obtaining coefficient data W_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) for each class by using the pixel data y of each target position obtained from the teacher signal ST time-adjusted by the delay circuit 257, items of pixel data x_i of the predictive taps selectively 15 taken out by the tap selection circuits 271 and 272 corresponding to this pixel data y of each target position, respectively, and the class code CLB generated by the class classification portion 264 corresponding to the pixel data y of each target position.

Then, this normal equation is solved in a coefficient data 20 determination portion 266 where the coefficient data W_i of each class is obtained, and the coefficient data W_i is stored in the coefficient memory 267.

Next, a case such that difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 256 is that of a DCT coefficient will be described. 25 In this case, the transfer switches 255 and 259 are each connected to the a-sides thereof.

A teacher signal ST that corresponds to the image signal V_b is supplied to the input terminal 251 and encoded by the MPEG2 encoder 252 where an MPEG2 stream is generated. This MPEG2 stream is supplied

to the MPEG2 decoder 253. The MPEG2 decoder 253 decodes this MPEG2 stream to generate a student signal SS that corresponds to the image signal Va.

In the tap selection circuit 271, the plural DCT coefficients positioned in the periphery of the target position in the teacher signal ST are selectively taken out as item(s) of data xi ($i=1, \dots, m$) of the predictive tap based on a DCT coefficient, which is obtained from the DCT circuit 254 and corresponds to the pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST, obtained by performing DCT processing on the multiple items of pixel data of the student signal SS.

In the class classification portion 260, a class code CLA indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST belongs is generated based on the student signal SS. This class code CLA is resulted from the block-unit class classification. This class code CLA is supplied to the accumulation table 256 as read address information. From the accumulation table 256, based on this class code CLA, the difference data DF that corresponds to the target position in the teacher signal ST is read.

In the tap selection circuit 272, based on the difference data DF read out of the accumulation table 256, multiple items of difference data that correspond to the plural DCT coefficients selected by the above-mentioned tap selection circuit 271 are selectively taken out as item(s) of data xi ($i=m+1, \dots, n$) of a predictive tap.

In the class classification portion 264, a class code CLB indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST belongs is generated based on the student signal SS, the pixel position mode information pi , and the class code CLA. This class code CLB is resulted from the pixel-data-unit class

classification.

On the pixel data in the teacher signal ST time-adjusted by the delay circuit 257, DCT processing is performed in the DCT circuit 258. In the normal equation generation portion 273, is generates a normal 5 equation (see Equation (8)) for obtaining the coefficient data W_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) for each class by using the DCT coefficient y , which is obtained by this DCT circuit 258, corresponding to pixel data of each target position, items of pixel data x_i of the predictive taps selectively taken out by the tap selection circuits 271 and 272 10 corresponding to each of the DCT coefficients y , and a class code CLB generated by the class classification portion 264 corresponding to the pixel data of each target position.

Then, this normal equation is solved in the coefficient data determination portion 266 where coefficient data W_i of each class is 15 obtained, and the coefficient data W_i is stored in the coefficient memory 267.

In such a manner, in the unit 250B for generating coefficient data shown in FIG. 22, it is possible to generate the coefficient data W_i of each class to be stored in the coefficient memory 138 in the 20 image-signal-processing portion 110B of FIG. 21.

This coefficient data W_i has been generated by taking out selectively and using the items of data x_i serving as a predictive tap based on the data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) related to the student signal SS and the difference data (correction data). 25 Therefore, in the image-signal-processing portion 110B shown in FIG. 21, the image signal V_b obtained from the image signal V_a through an estimate equation by use of this coefficient data W_i has a well reduced encoding noise.

It is to be noted that the processing in the image-signal-

processing portion 110B shown in FIG. 21 can also be realized in software by, for example, the apparatus 300 for processing image signal shown in FIG. 8.

The following will describe a processing procedure for 5 obtaining the image signal Vb from the image signal Va with reference to a flowchart of FIG. 23.

First, at step ST201, the process starts processing, and at step ST202, it inputs from, for example, the input terminal 314 one frame or one field of the image signal Va into the apparatus. In such a 10 manner, pixel data that constitutes the image signal Va input from the input terminal 314 is stored in the RAM303 temporarily. It is to be noted that if this image signal Va is recorded in the hard disk drive 305 in the apparatus beforehand, this image signal Va is read out of this drive 305 so that the pixel data that constitutes this 15 image signal Va is temporarily stored in the RAM303.

At step ST203, it decides whether processing of all the frames or fields of the image signal Va has finished. If the processing has finished, the process ends the processing at step ST204. Otherwise, it goes to step ST205.

20 Next, at this step ST205, the process performs block-unit class classification to generate a class code CLA that indicates a class to which pixel data of a target position in the image signal Vb belongs. At step ST206, based on the class code CLA generated at step ST205, the process reads difference data DF corresponding to that class code 25 CLA out of the ROM302 etc. and stores it in the RAM303 temporarily.

Next, at step ST207, it decides whether the processing to read the difference data has finished in all regions of the pixel data of the image signal Va input at step ST202. If finished, the process goes to step ST208. Otherwise, it returns to step ST205 to shift to

processing of the next target position.

At step ST208, the process performs pixel-data-unit class classification based on the image signal V_a input at step ST202, pixel position mode information π_i input as paired with the pixel data of this image signal V_a , and the class code CLA generated at the above-mentioned step ST205, to generate a class code CLB that indicates a class to which pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b belongs.

At step ST209, the process acquires multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the image signal V_b as item(s) of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, m$) based on the image signal V_a input at step ST202 and also acquires multiple items of difference data that corresponds to the above-mentioned multiple items of pixel data as item(s) of data x_i ($i=m+1, \dots, n$) of the predictive tap based on the difference data DF read out at step ST206.

Next, at step ST210, based on that class code CLB generated at step ST208, the process reads out of the ROM302 etc. the coefficient data W_i corresponding to the class code CLB and uses this coefficient data W_i and the pixel data x_i of the predictive tap to generate pixel data y of the target position in the image signal V_b through an estimate equation (see Equation (1)).

Next, at step ST211, the process decides whether the processing to obtain pixel data of the image signal V_b has finished in all regions of the pixel data of the image signal V_a input at step ST202. If the processing has not yet finished, the process returns to step ST208 to shift to processing of the next target position. If the processing has finished, on the other hand, the process returns to step ST202 to shift to processing of inputting the next one frame or one field of the image signal V_a .

In this case, if the difference data DF stored in the ROM302 etc. is that of a DCT coefficient which is obtained by DCT processing, the process performs DCT processing on the image signal Va input at step DT202, to provide a DCT coefficient. Further, at step ST209, 5 based on the DCT coefficient obtained by performing DCT processing on the input image signal Va, the process acquires plural DCT coefficients corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the image signal Vb as item(s) of data $xi (i=1, \dots, m)$ of a predictive tap. For example, as the plural DCT coefficients, the process acquires 10 DC coefficients which are present in a DCT coefficient block that corresponds to block data containing pixel data of the target position in the image signal Vb and four DCT coefficient blocks adjacent to this DCT coefficient block.

Further, since data y obtained by the estimate equation at step 15 ST210 is a DCT coefficient, the process further performs inverse DCT processing to generate pixel data of the target position in the image signal Vb.

In such a manner, by performing the processing along the flowchart shown in FIG. 23, it is possible to process pixel data of 20 the input image signal Va, thereby obtaining pixel data of the image signal Vb. As described above, the image signal Vb thus processed and obtained is provided to the output terminal 315 or supplied to the display portion 311 so that an image due to the signal may be displayed or, further, supplied to the hard disk drive 305 where it 25 is recorded on a hard disk.

Further, although a processing device is not shown, processing in the unit 250B for generating coefficient data of FIG. 22 can also be realized in software.

The following will describe a processing procedure for

generating coefficient data with reference to a flowchart of FIG. 24.

First, at step ST241, the process starts processing, and at step ST242, it inputs only one frame or one field of the teacher signal. At step ST243, it decides whether processing of all frames or fields 5 of the teacher signal has finished. If the processing has not yet finished, the process goes to step ST244 to generate a student signal from the teacher signal input at step ST242.

At step ST245, the process performs block-unit class classification based on the student signal SS generated at step ST244, 10 to generate a class code CLA that indicates a class to which pixel data of a target position in the teacher signal ST belongs.

Next, at step ST246, based on the class code CLA generated at step ST245, the process reads difference data DF corresponding to that class code CLA out of the ROM etc. and stores it in a RAM 15 temporarily.

At step ST247, it decides whether the processing to read the difference data has finished in all regions of the pixel data of the student signal SS generated at step ST244. If the processing has finished, the process goes to step ST248. Otherwise, it returns to 20 step ST245 to shift to processing of the next target position.

At step ST248, the process performs pixel-data-unit class classification based on the student signal SS generated at step ST244, the pixel position mode information π_i obtained so as to correspond to pixel data of the student signal SS that corresponds to pixel data 25 of the target position in the teacher signal ST as not described above, and the class code CLA generated at the above-mentioned step ST245, to generate a class code CLB that indicates a class to which the pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST belongs.

Next, at step ST249, the process acquires multiple items of pixel

data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal ST as item(s) of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, m$) of a predictive tap based on the student signal SS generated at step ST244 and also acquires multiple items of difference data that correspond to the above-5 mentioned multiple items of pixel data as item(s) of data x_i ($i=m+1, \dots, n$) of the predictive tap based on the difference data DF read at step ST246.

At step ST250, the process decides whether learning processing is finished in all regions of the one frame or field of the pixel data 10 of the teacher signal input at step ST242. If the learning processing has finished, the process returns to step ST242 to input the next one frame or field of the teacher signal, thus repeating the same processing as described above. Otherwise, the process goes to step ST251.

15 At this step ST251, the process generates a normal equation (see Equation (8)) for obtaining coefficient data W_i for each class by using the class code CLB generated at step ST248, the item(s) of data x_i of the predictive tap acquired at step ST249, and the pixel data y of the target position in the teacher signal ST and then returns to step 20 ST248 to shift to the processing of the next target position.

If the processing has finished at the above-mentioned step ST243, the process, at step ST252, solves the normal equation generated at step ST251 by a sweeping-out method etc., to calculate coefficient data of each class. At step ST253, the process saves the coefficient 25 data of each class in the memory and ends the processing at step ST254.

In such a manner, by performing the processing along the flowchart shown in FIG. 24, it is possible to obtain the coefficient data W_i of each class by using the same method as that for the unit 250B for generating coefficient data shown in FIG. 22.

If, in this case, the difference data DF stored in the ROM etc. is that of a DCT coefficient which is obtained through DCT processing, the process performs DCT processing on the student signal SS generated at step ST244, to provide a DCT coefficient. At step ST249, based 5 on that DCT coefficient, the process acquires plural DCT coefficients corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the teacher signal ST as item(s) of data xi ($i=1, \dots, m$). For example, as the plural DCT coefficients, the process acquires DC coefficients which are present in a DCT coefficient block that corresponds to block data 10 containing pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST and four DCT coefficient blocks adjacent to this DCT coefficient block.

Further, in this case, when generating a normal equation at step ST251, the process performs DCT processing on the pixel data of the 15 target position in the teacher signal ST, to obtain a DCT coefficient y that is paired with the item(s) of data xi of the predictive tap acquired at step ST249 to constitute learning data.

The following will describe a fourth embodiment of the present invention.

20 FIG. 25 shows a configuration of a digital broadcast receiver 100C according to the fourth embodiment. In FIG. 25, components corresponding to those of FIG. 16 are indicated by the same symbols.

The digital broadcast receiver 100C has an image-signal-processing portion 110C by which the image-signal-processing portion 25 110A of the digital broadcast receiver 100A shown in FIG. 16 is replaced and operates in the same way as the digital broadcast receiver 100A.

The following will describe details of the image-signal-processing portion 110C. In this image-signal-processing portion 110C, components corresponding to those of the image-signal-

processing portion 110A shown in FIG. 16 are indicated by the same symbols and their detailed description will be omitted.

This image-signal-processing portion 110C has a tap selection circuit 144 serving as data selection means for taking out selectively and outputting, as item(s) of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) of a predictive tap, multiple items of difference data related to a target position in an image signal V_b based on difference data DF read out of an accumulation table 131 corresponding to a class code CLA output from a class classification portion 130.

10 The tap selection circuit 144 selectively takes out difference data that corresponds to multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the image signal V_b if difference data of pixel data is stored in the accumulation table 131 and a transfer switch 133 is connected to its b-side and used.

15 If difference data of a DCT coefficient is stored in the accumulation table 131 and the transfer switch 133 is connected to its a-side and used, on the other hand, the tap selection circuit 144 selectively takes out difference data that corresponds to plural DCT coefficients in the periphery of the target position in the image 20 signal V_b . For example, as the plural DCT coefficients, DC coefficients are selected which are present in a DCT coefficient block that corresponds to block data containing pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b and four DCT coefficient blocks adjacent to this DCT coefficient block.

25 Further, the image-signal-processing portion 110C has an estimate/predictive operation circuit 145 for calculating difference data DF' that corresponds to the target position in the image signal V_b to be generated by using the estimate equation of Equation (1) from the item(s) of data x_i of a predictive tap taken out selectively by

the tap selection circuits 144 and coefficient data W_i read out of the coefficient memory 138 corresponding to a class code CLB output from a class classification portion 139.

Further, the image-signal-processing portion 110C has an
5 addition portion 146 serving as correction means for adding difference data DF' obtained the estimate/predictive operation circuit 145 to data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) x_p , which is output from a movable terminal of the transfer switch 133, corresponding to the target position in the image signal V_b , thus generating data (pixel data or
10 DCT coefficient) y_p of the target position in the image signal V_b .

The other components of the image-signal-processing portion 110C have the same configurations as those of the image-signal-processing portion 110A shown in FIG. 16.

The following will describe operations of this image-
15 signal-processing portion 110C.

First, a case such that difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 131 is that of pixel data will be described. In this case, the transfer switches 133 and 136 are each connected to the b-sides thereof.

20 In the class classification portion 130, based on the image signal V_a , a class code CLA indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b belongs is generated. This class code CLA is resulted from the block-unit class classification. This class code CLA is supplied to the accumulation table 131 as read address information. From the accumulation table 131, based on this class code CLA, the difference data DF corresponding to the target position in the image signal V_b is read.

In the tap selection circuit 144, based on the difference data DF read out of the accumulation table 131 corresponding to the class

code CLA output from the class classification portion 130, difference data that corresponds to multiple items of pixel data positioned in the periphery of the target position in the image signal Vb is selectively taken out as item(s) of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, m$) of a predictive 5 tap.

In the class classification portion 139, the class code CLB indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the image signal Vb belongs is generated based on the image signal Va, pixel position mode information p_i , and the class code CLA. This class 10 code CLB is resulted from pixel-data-unit class classification. This class code CLB is supplied to the coefficient memory 138 as read address information. From the coefficient memory 138, the coefficient data W_i that corresponds to the class code CLB is read and supplied to the estimate/predictive operation circuit 145.

15 In the estimate/predictive operation circuit 145, difference data y (DF') corresponding to the pixel data of the target position in the image signal Vb to be generated is obtained based on the estimate equation of the above-mentioned Equation (1) by using the item(s) of data x_i of a predictive taps selectively taken out by the tap selection 20 circuit 144 and the coefficient data W_i read out of the coefficient memory 138.

Of the image signal Va stored in the buffer memory 108, pixel data x_p that corresponds to the target position in the image signal Vb is supplied via the b-side of the transfer switch 133 to the addition 25 portion 146. Further, the addition portion 146 is supplied with the difference data DF' that corresponds to this pixel data x_p of the target position generated by the estimate/predictive operation circuit 145.

Then, in the addition portion 146, the difference data DF' is added to the pixel data x_p , so that they are corrected to generate

pixel data y_p of the target position in the image signal V_b . This pixel data y_p is output via the b-side of the transfer switch 136 as an output signal of the image-signal-processing portion 110C. That is, this pixel data y_p constitutes the image signal V_b .

5 Next, a case such that difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 131 is that of a DCT coefficient obtained through DCT processing will be described. In this case, the transfer switches 133 and 136 are each connected to the a-sides thereof.

10 In the class classification portion 130, based on the image signal V_a , a class code CLA indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b belongs is generated. This class code CLA is resulted from the block-unit class classification. This class code CLA is supplied to the accumulation table 131 as read address information. From the accumulation table 15 131, based on this class code CLA, difference data DF that corresponds to the target position in the image signal V_b is read.

20 In the tap selection circuit 144, based on the difference data DF read out of the accumulation table 131 corresponding to the class code CLA output from the class classification portion 130, difference data that corresponds to plural DCT coefficients in a periphery of the target position in the image signal V_b is selectively taken out as item(s) of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, m$) of a predictive tap.

25 In the class classification portion 139, a class code CLB indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b belongs is generated based on the image signal V_a , the pixel position mode information p_i , and the class code CLA. This class code CLB is resulted from the pixel-data-unit (DCT coefficient-unit) class classification. This class code CLB is supplied to the coefficient memory 138 as read address information.

From the coefficient memory 138, coefficient data W_i that corresponds to the class code CLB is read and supplied to the estimate/predictive operation circuit 145.

In the estimate/predictive operation circuit 145, difference data y (DF') that corresponds to the pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b to be generated is obtained based on the above-mentioned estimate equation of Equation (1) by using the item(s) of data x_i of a predictive taps selectively taken out by the tap selection circuit 144 and the coefficient data W_i read out of the coefficient memory 138.

The DCT coefficient x_p , which is obtained by the DCT circuit 132 and corresponds to pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b , generated by performing DCT processing on multiple items of pixel data in the image signal V_a is supplied via the a-side of the transfer switch 133 to the addition portion 146. Further, this addition portion 146 is supplied with the difference data DF' that corresponds to this pixel data x_p of the target position generated by the estimate/predictive operation circuit 145.

Then, in the addition portion 146, the difference data DF' is added to the pixel data x_p , so that they are corrected to generate a DCT coefficient y_p that corresponds to the pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b . This DCT coefficient y_p is supplied to an inverse DCT circuit 135. This inverse DCT circuit 135 performs inverse DCT processing on the DCT coefficient y_p to obtain pixel data. In such a manner, pixel data output from the inverse DCT circuit 135 is output via the a-side of the transfer switch 136 as an output signal of the image-signal-processing portion 110C. That is, this pixel data constitutes the image signal V_b .

In such a manner, in the image-signal-processing portion 110C,

when the image signal V_a is converted to obtain the image signal V_b , data x_i of a predictive tap is selected on the basis of the difference data (correction data) DF that corresponds to a first class to which pixel data of a target position in the image signal V_b belongs, and

5 thus, using the data x_i of the predictive tap and the coefficient data Wi corresponding to a second class to which the pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b belongs, the difference data (correction data) DF' that corresponds to the pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_a is obtained based on an estimate

10 equation, and the difference data DF' is used to correct the data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) x_p related to the image signal V_a , thereby obtaining the data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) y_p of the target position in the image signal V_b .

This operation is basically equivalent to that for, as in the

15 image-signal-processing portion 110A shown in FIG. 16, correcting data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) x_p related to the image signal V_a to obtain the data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) y_p related to the image signal V_b and using the data x_i of the predictive tap selected on the basis of this corrected data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) and the

20 coefficient data Wi , the data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) y of the target position in the image signal V_b is obtained based on an estimate equation, thus enabling a signal having a well reduced encoding noise as the image signal V_b to be obtained.

The following will describe a unit 250C for generating

25 coefficient data Wi to be stored in the coefficient memory 138 in the image-signal-processing portion 110C shown in FIG. 25. FIG. 26 shows a configuration of the unit 250C for generating coefficient data. In this FIG. 26, components that correspond to those of FIG. 18 are indicated by the same symbols.

The unit 250C for generating coefficient data has a subtraction portion 274 for subtracting data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) x_p , which is output from a movable terminal of a transfer switch 255, corresponding to a target position in a teacher signal ST from data 5 (pixel data or DCT coefficient) y_p , which is output from a movable terminal of a transfer switch 259, of the target position in this teacher signal ST, thereby obtaining difference data.

Further, the unit 250C for generating coefficient data has a tap selection circuit 275 serving as data selection means for taking 10 out selectively and outputting, as item(s) of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) of a predictive tap, multiple items of difference data related to the target position in the teacher signal ST based on difference data DF read out of an accumulation table 256 corresponding to a class code CLA output from a class classification portion 260.

15 This tap selection circuit 275 has the same configuration as that of the tap selection circuit 144 in the image-signal-processing portion 110C of FIG. 25. The tap selection circuit 275 selectively takes out difference data that corresponds to multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the teacher 20 signal ST if difference data of pixel data is stored in the accumulation table 256 and transfer switches 255 and 259 are each connected to the b-sides thereof and used.

If difference data of a DCT coefficient is stored in the accumulation table 256 and the transfer switches 255 and 259 are each 25 connected to the a-sides thereof and used, on the other hand, the tap selection circuit 275 selectively takes out difference data that corresponds to plural DCT coefficients in the periphery of the target position in the teacher signal ST. For example, as the plural DCT coefficients, DC coefficients are selected which are present in a DCT

coefficient block that corresponds to block data containing pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST and four DCT coefficient blocks adjacent to this DCT coefficient block.

Further, the unit 250C for generating coefficient data has a
5 normal equation generation portion 276 for generating a normal
equation (see the above-mentioned Equation (8)) for obtaining item(s)
of coefficient data W_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) for each class by using subtraction
data y , which is output from the subtraction portion 274, corresponding
to each target position in the teacher signal ST, item(s) of data x_i
10 of a predictive tap selectively taken out by the tap selection circuit
275, and a class code CLB output from a class classification portion
264.

In this case, although one item of data y and the n number of
15 items of data x_i of a predictive tap corresponding thereto are combined
to generate one item of learning data, many items of the learning data
are generated for each class. Accordingly, a normal equation for
obtaining the coefficient data W_i is generated for each class in the
normal equation generation portion 276.

The following will describe operations of the unit 250C for
20 generating coefficient data shown in FIG. 26.

First, a case such that difference data DF stored in the
accumulation table 256 is that of pixel data will be described. In
this case, the transfer switches 255 and 259 are each connected to
the b-sides thereof.

25 A teacher signal ST that corresponds to the image signal V_b is
supplied to an input terminal 251 and encoded by an MPEG2 encoder 252
where an MPEG2 stream is generated. This MPEG2 stream is supplied
to the MPEG2 decoder 253. The MPEG2 decoder 253 decodes this MPEG2
stream to generate a student signal SS that corresponds to the image

signal Va.

Of the teacher signal ST time-adjusted by a delay circuit 257, pixel data y_p of its target position is supplied via the b-side of the transfer switch 259 to the subtraction portion 274. To this subtraction portion 274, the pixel data x_p corresponding to the target position in the teacher signal ST among a student signal SS output from the MPEG2 decoder 253 is supplied via the b-side of the transfer switch 255. Then, the subtraction portion 274 subtracts the pixel data x_p from the pixel data y_p to generate difference data.

In the class classification portion 260, based on the student signal SS, a class code CLA indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST belongs is generated. This class code CLA is resulted from the block-unit class classification. This class code CLA is supplied to the accumulation table 256 as read address information. From the accumulation table 256, based on this class code CLA, difference data DF that corresponds to the target position in the teacher signal ST is read.

In the tap selection circuit 275, based on the difference data DF read out of the accumulation table 256, difference data that corresponds to multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal ST is selectively taken out as item(s) of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) of a predictive tap.

In the class classification portion 264, the class code CLB indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST belongs is generated based on the student signal SS, the pixel position mode information p_i , and the class code CLA.

In the normal equation generation portion 276, a normal equation (see Equation (8)) for obtaining the coefficient data W_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) is generated for each class by using subtraction data y ,

which is out put from the subtraction portion 274, corresponding to each target position in the teacher signal ST, item(s) of data x_i of a predictive tap selectively taken out by the tap selection circuit 275 corresponding to this subtraction data y of each target position,
 5 and a class code CLB generated by the class classification portion 264 corresponding to the pixel data (subtraction data y) of each target position.

Then, this normal equation is solved in a coefficient data determination portion 266 to obtain the coefficient data W_i of each
 10 class, and the coefficient data W_i is stored in the coefficient memory 267.

Next, a case such that difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 256 is that of a DCT coefficient will be described. In this case, the transfer switches 255 and 259 are each connected
 15 to the a-sides thereof.

A teacher signal ST that corresponds to the image signal V_b is supplied to the input terminal 251 and encoded by the MPEG2 encoder 252 where an MPEG2 stream is generate. This MPEG2 stream is supplied to the MPEG2 decoder 253. The MPEG2 decoder 253 decodes this MPEG2
 20 stream to generate a student signal SS that corresponds to the image signal V_a .

On pixel data of a target position in the teacher signal ST time-adjusted by the delay circuit 257, DCT processing is performed by a DCT circuit 258 to obtain a DCT coefficient y_p , which is supplied
 25 via the a-side of the transfer switch 259 to the subtraction portion 274. Further, on the pixel data, which corresponds to the target position in the teacher signal ST, among the student signal SS output from the MPEG2 decoder 253, DCT processing is performed by the DCT circuit 254 to obtain a DCT coefficient x_p , which is supplied via the

a-side of the transfer switch 255 to the subtraction portion 274. The subtraction portion 274 subtracts the DCT coefficient x_p from the DCT coefficient y_p to generate difference data.

In the class classification portion 260, a class code CLA indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST belongs is generated based on the student signal SS. This class code CLA is resulted from the block-unit class classification. This class code CLA is supplied to the accumulation table 256 as read address information. From the accumulation table 256, based on this class code CLA, difference data DF that corresponds to the target position in the teacher signal ST is read.

In the tap selection circuit 275, based on the difference data DF read out of the accumulation table 256, difference data that corresponds to multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal ST is selectively taken out as item(s) of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) of a predictive tap.

In the class classification portion 264, a class code CLB indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST belongs is generated based on the student signal SS, the pixel position mode information p_i , and the class code CLA.

In the normal equation generation portion 276, a normal equation (see Equation (8)) for obtaining item(s) of coefficient data W_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) is generated for each class by using subtraction data y , which is output from the subtraction portion 274, corresponding to each target position in the teacher signal ST, item(s) of data x_i of a predictive tap selectively taken out by the tap selection circuit 275 corresponding to this subtraction data y of each target position, and a class code CLB generated by the class classification portion 264 corresponding to the pixel data (subtraction data) y of each target

position.

Then, this normal equation is solved by the coefficient data determination portion 266 to obtain coefficient data W_i of each class, which coefficient data W_i is stored in the coefficient memory 267.

5 In such a manner, in the unit 250C for generating coefficient data shown in FIG. 26, it is possible to generate the coefficient data W_i of each class to be stored in the coefficient memory 138 in the image-signal-processing portion 110C of FIG. 25.

This coefficient data W_i has been generated by using the
10 subtraction data obtained by subtracting the data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) related to the student signal SS from the data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) related to the teacher signal and the item(s) of data x_i as a predictive tap selected on the basis of difference data (correction data). Therefore, in the image-signal-processing
15 portion 110C shown in FIG. 25, the image signal V_b obtained from the image signal V_a through an estimate equation by use of this coefficient data W_i has a well reduced encoding noise.

It is to be noted that the processing in the image-signal-processing portion 110C shown in FIG. 25 can also be realized in
20 software by, for example, the apparatus 300 for processing image signal shown in FIG. 8.

The following will describe a processing procedure for obtaining the image signal V_b from the image signal V_a with reference to a flowchart of FIG. 27.

25 First, at step ST301, the process starts processing, and at step ST302, it inputs from, for example, the input terminal 314 one frame or one field of the image signal V_a into the apparatus. In such a manner, pixel data that constitutes the image signal V_a input from the input terminal 314 is stored in the RAM303 temporarily. It is

to be noted that if this image signal V_a is recorded in the hard disk drive 305 in the apparatus beforehand, this image signal V_a is read out of this drive 305 so that the pixel data that constitutes this image signal V_a in the RAM303 is temporarily stored.

5 At step ST303, it decides whether processing of all the frames or fields of the image signal V_a has finished. If the processing has finished, the process ends the processing at step ST304. Otherwise, it goes to step ST305.

At this step ST305, the process performs block-unit class
10 classification to generate a class code CLA indicating a class to which pixel data of a target position in the image signal V_b belongs. At step ST306, based on the class code CLA generated at step ST305, the process reads difference data DF that corresponds to that class code CLA from the ROM302 etc. and stores it in the RAM303 temporarily.

15 Next, at step ST307, it decides whether the processing to read difference data has finished in all regions of the pixel data of the image signal V_a input at step ST302. If the processing has finished, the process goes to step ST308. Otherwise, it returns to step ST305 to shift to processing of the next target position.

20 At step ST308, the process performs pixel-data-unit class classification based on the image signal V_a input at step ST302, pixel position mode information π_i input with it being paired with pixel data of this image signal V_a , and the class code CLA generated at the above-mentioned step ST305, to generate a class code CLB indicating
25 a class to which pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b belongs.

At step ST309, the process acquires multiple items of difference data that corresponds to multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the image signal V_b as item(s)

of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) based on the difference data DF read at step ST306.

Next, at step ST310, the process reads out of the ROM302 etc. coefficient data Wi that corresponds to the class code CLB generated at step ST308 based on the class code CLB and uses this coefficient 5 data Wi and the item(s) of pixel data x_i of the predictive tap to generate pixel data y (DF') that corresponds to the pixel data of the target position in the image signal Vb through an estimate equation (see Equation (1)).

At step ST311, the process adds the difference data DF' generated 10 at step ST310 to pixel data x_p , which corresponds to the target position in the image signal Vb , among the multiple items of pixel data that constitute the image signal Va and corrects it, to generate pixel data y_p of the target position in the image signal Vb .

Next, at step ST312, the process decides whether the processing 15 to obtain pixel data of the image signal Vb has finished in all regions of the pixel data of the image signal Va input at step ST302. If the processing has not yet finished, the process returns to step ST308 to shift to processing of the next target position. If finished, on the other hand, the process returns to step ST302 to shift to processing 20 of inputting the next one frame or one field of the image signal Va .

In this case, if the difference data DF stored in the ROM302 etc. is that of a DCT coefficient which is obtained by DCT processing, the process performs DCT processing on the image signal Va input at step ST302, to provide a DCT coefficient. Further, in this case, since 25 data y_p obtained at step ST311 is a DCT coefficient, the process further performs inverse DCT processing to generate pixel data of the target position in the image signal Vb .

In such a manner, by performing the processing along the flowchart shown in FIG. 27, it is possible to process pixel data of

the input image signal V_a , thereby obtaining pixel data of the image signal V_b . As described above, the image signal V_b thus processed and obtained is provided to the output terminal 315 or supplied to the display portion 311 so that an image due to the signal may be 5 displayed or, further, supplied to the hard disk drive 305 where it is recorded on a hard disk.

Further, although a processing device is not shown, processing in the unit 250C for generating coefficient data of FIG. 26 can also be realized in software.

10 The following will describe a processing procedure for generating coefficient data with reference to a flowchart of FIG. 28.

First, at step ST341, the process starts processing, and at step ST342, it inputs only one frame or one field of a teacher signal. At step ST343, it decides whether processing of all the frames or fields 15 of the teacher signal has finished. If the processing has not yet finished, the process goes to step ST344 to generate a student signal from the teacher signal input at step ST342.

At step ST345, the process performs block-unit class classification based on the student signal SS generated at step ST344, 20 to generate a class code CLA indicating a class to which pixel data of a target position in the teacher signal ST belongs.

Next, at step ST346, based on the class code CLA generated at step ST345, the process reads difference data DF corresponding to that class code CLA out of the ROM etc. and stores it in a RAM 25 temporarily.

At step ST347, it decides whether the processing to read the difference data has finished in all regions of the pixel data of the student signal SS generated at step ST344. If the processing has finished, the process goes to step ST348. Otherwise, it returns to

step ST345 to shift to processing of the next target position.

At step ST348, the process performs pixel-data-unit class classification based on the student signal SS generated at step ST344, pixel position mode information π_i obtained so as to correspond to 5 pixel data of the student signal SS that corresponds to pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST, which has not described above, and the class code CLA generated at the above-mentioned step ST345, to generate a class code CLB indicating a class to which the pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST belongs.

10 Next, at step ST349, the process acquires multiple items of different data corresponding to multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal ST as item(s) of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) of a predictive tap based on the difference data DF read at step ST346.

15 At step ST350, the process subtracts the pixel data x_p , which corresponds to the pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST, among multiple items of pixel data that constitute the student signal SS from the pixel data y_p of the target position in the teacher signal ST among multiple items of pixel data that 20 constitute the teacher signal ST, to generate subtraction data.

Next, at step ST351, the process decides whether learning processing has finished in all regions of the one frame or field of the pixel data of the teacher signal input at step ST342. If the learning processing has finished, the process returns to step ST342 25 to input the next one frame or field of the teacher signal, thus repeating the same processing as described above. Otherwise, the process goes to step ST352.

At this step ST352, the process generates a normal equation (see Equation (8)) for obtaining coefficient data W_i for each class by using

the class code CLB generated at step ST348, the item(s) of data x_i of the predictive tap acquired at step ST349, and the subtraction data y that corresponds to the pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST generated at step ST350 and then returns to step 5 ST348 to shift to the processing of the next target position.

If the processing has finished at the above-mentioned step ST343, the process, at step ST353, solves the normal equation generated at step ST352 by a sweeping-out method etc., to calculate coefficient data of each class. At step ST354, the process saves the coefficient 10 data of each class in the memory and ends the processing at step ST355.

In such a manner, by performing the processing along the flowchart shown in FIG. 28, it is possible to obtain the coefficient data W_i of each class by using the same method as that for the unit 250C for generating coefficient data shown in FIG. 26.

15 If, in this case, the difference data DF stored in the ROM etc. is that of a DCT coefficient which is obtained through DCT processing, the process performs DCT processing on the student signal SS generated at step ST344, to provide a DCT coefficient. Further, the process performs DCT processing on the teacher signal ST input at step ST342 20 to obtain a DCT coefficient. At step ST350, the process performs subtraction in a condition of the DCT coefficient.

The following will describe a fifth embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 29 shows a configuration of a digital broadcast receiver 25 100D according to the fifth embodiment. In this FIG. 29, components corresponding to those of FIG. 16 are indicated by the same symbols.

The digital broadcast receiver 100D has an image-signal-processing portion 110D by which the image-signal-processing portion 110A of the digital broadcast receiver 100A shown in FIG. 16 is replaced

and operates in the same way as the digital broadcast receiver 100A.

The following will describe details of the image-signal-processing portion 110D. In this image-signal-processing portion 110D, components corresponding to those of the image-signal-processing portion 110A shown in FIG. 16 are indicated by the same symbols and their detailed description will be omitted.

5 This image signal processing portion 110D has a tap selection circuit 147 serving as data selection means for taking out selectively and outputting, as item(s) of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) of a predictive tap, 10 multiple items of data related to a target position in an image signal V_b based on data (pixel data or DCT coefficient), which is output from a movable terminal of a transfer switch 133, corresponding to the target position in the image signal V_b .

15 The tap selection circuit 147 selectively takes out multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the image signal V_b if difference data of pixel data is stored in the accumulation table 131 and the transfer switch 133 is connected to its b-side and used.

20 If difference data of a DCT coefficient is stored in the accumulation table 131 and the transfer switch 133 is connected to its a-side and used, on the other hand, the tap selection circuit 147 selectively takes out plural DCT coefficients that correspond to the periphery of the target position in the image signal V_b . For example, 25 as the plural DCT coefficients, DC coefficients are selected which are present in a DCT coefficient block that corresponds to block data containing pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b and four DCT coefficient blocks adjacent to this DCT coefficient block.

Further, the image-signal-processing portion 110D has an estimate/predictive operation circuit 148 for calculating data (pixel

data or DCT coefficient) y corresponding to the target position in the image signal V_b to be generated by using the estimate equation of Equation (1) from the item(s) of data x_i of a predictive tap taken out selectively by the tap selection circuits 147 and coefficient data 5 W_i read out of the coefficient memory 138 corresponding to a class code CLB output from a class classification portion 139.

Further, the image-signal-processing portion 110D has an addition portion 149 serving as correction means for adding difference data DF read out of the accumulation table 131 to data (pixel data 10 or DCT coefficient) x_p , which is output from the estimate/predictive operation circuit 148, corresponding to the target position in the image signal V_b , thus generating data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) y_p of the target position in the image signal V_b .

The other components of the image-signal-processing portion 15 110D have the same configurations as those of the image-signal-processing portion 110A shown in FIG. 16.

The following will describe operations of this image-signal-processing portion 110D.

First, a case such that difference data DF stored in the 20 accumulation table 131 is that of pixel data will be described. In this case, the transfer switches 133 and 136 are each connected to the b-side thereof.

In the tap selection circuit 147, multiple items of pixel data positioned in the periphery of the target position in the image signal 25 V_b are selectively taken out as item(s) of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) of a predictive tap, based on an image signal V_a stored in a buffer memory 108.

In the class classification portion 139, a class code CLB indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the

image signal V_b belongs is generated based on the image signal V_a , pixel position mode information p_i , and the class code CLA. This class code CLB is resulted from the pixel-data-unit class classification. This class code CLB is supplied to the coefficient memory 138 as read 5 address information. From the coefficient memory 138, the coefficient data W_i that corresponds to the class code CLB is read and supplied to the estimate/predictive operation circuit 148.

In the estimate/predictive operation circuit 148, pixel data y that corresponds to the pixel data of the target position in the 10 image signal V_b to be generated is obtained based on the estimate equation of the above-mentioned Equation (1) by using the item(s) of data x_i of a predictive taps selectively taken out by the tap selection circuit 147 and the coefficient data W_i read out of the coefficient memory 138.

15 In a class classification portion 130, a class code CLA indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b belongs is generated based on the image signal V_a . This class code CLA is resulted from the block-unit class classification. This class code CLA is supplied to the accumulation 20 table 131 as read address information. From the accumulation table 131, based on this class code CLA, the difference data DF that corresponds to the target position in the image signal V_b is read.

The addition portion 149 is supplied with the pixel data y (x_p), which is generated by the estimate/predictive operation circuit 148, 25 corresponding to pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b . Further, this addition portion 149 is supplied with the difference data DF, which is read out of the accumulation table 13, corresponding to the target position in the image signal V_b .

In the addition portion 149, the difference data DF is added

to the pixel data x_p so that they are corrected, thereby generating pixel data y_p of the target position in the image signal V_b . This pixel data y_p is supplied via the b-side of the transfer switch 136 as an output signal of the image-signal-processing portion 110D. That 5 is, this image data y_p constitutes the image signal V_b .

Next, a case such that difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 131 is that of a DCT coefficient obtained through DCT processing will be described. In this case, the transfer switches 133 and 136 are each connected to the a-sides thereof.

10 In the tap selection circuit 147, plural DCT coefficients that correspond to a periphery of a target position in the image signal V_b are selectively taken out as item(s) of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) of a predictive tap based on a DCT coefficient, which is obtained by the DCT circuit 132 and corresponds to the pixel data of the target position 15 in the image signal V_b , generated by performing DCT processing on multiple items of pixel data of the image signal V_a .

20 In the class classification portion 139, a class code CLB indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b belongs is generated based on the image signal V_a , the pixel position mode information p_i , and the class code CLA. This class code CLB is resulted from the pixel-data-unit (DCT coefficient-unit) class classification. This class code CLB is supplied to the coefficient memory 138 as read address information. From the coefficient memory 138, coefficient data W_i that corresponds 25 to the class code CLB is read and supplied to the estimate/predictive operation circuit 148.

In the estimate/predictive operation circuit 148, a DCT coefficient y that corresponds to the pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b to be generated is obtained based on the estimate

equation of the above-mentioned Equation (1) by using the item(s) of data x_i of a predictive taps selectively taken out by the tap selection circuit 147 and the coefficient data W_i read out of the coefficient memory 138.

5 In the class classification portion 130, based on the image signal V_a , a class code CLA indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b belongs is generated. This class code CLA is resulted from the block-unit class classification. This class code CLA is supplied to the accumulation 10 table 131 as read address information. From the accumulation table 131, based on this class code CLA, difference data DF that corresponds to the target position in the image signal V_b is read.

15 The addition portion 149 is supplied with the DCT coefficient $y (x_p)$, which is generated by the estimate/predictive operation circuit 148, corresponding to pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b . Further, this addition portion 149 is supplied with the difference data DF, which is read out of the accumulation table 131, corresponding to the target position in the image signal V_b .

20 In the addition portion 149, the difference data DF is added to the DCT coefficient x_p so that they are corrected, thereby generating a DCT coefficient y_p that corresponds to the pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b . This DCT coefficient y_p is supplied to an inverse DCT coefficient circuit 135. In this 25 inverse DCT circuit 135, inverse DCT processing is performed on the DCT coefficient y_p to obtain pixel data. In such a manner, the pixel data output from the inverse DCT circuit 135 is output via the a-side of the transfer switch 136 as an output signal of the image-signal-processing portion 110D. That is, this pixel data constitutes

the image signal Vb.

In such a manner, in the image-signal-processing portion 110D, when the image signal Va is converted to obtain the image signal Vb, item(s) of data x_i of a predictive tap is(are) selected on the basis 5 of the image signal Va, and using the data x_i of the predictive tap and the coefficient data W_i that corresponds to a second class to which the pixel data of the target position in the image signal Vb belongs, based on an estimate equation, data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) $y (x_p)$ that corresponds to the pixel data of the target position in 10 the image signal Va is obtained and then this data $y (x_p)$ is corrected by using difference data (correction data) DF that corresponds to a first class to which the pixel data of the target position in the image signal Vb belongs, thus obtaining data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) y_p of the target position in the image signal Vb.

15 This operation is basically equivalent to that for, as in the image-signal-processing portion 110A shown in FIG. 16, correcting data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) x_p related to the image signal Va to obtain the data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) y_p related to the image signal Vb and using data x_i of a predictive tap selected on the basis 20 of this corrected data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) and the coefficient data W_i , the data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) y of the target position in the image signal Vb is obtained based on an estimate equation, thus enabling a signal having a well reduced encoding noise as the image signal Vb to be obtained.

25 The following will describe a unit for generating coefficient data W_i to be stored in the coefficient memory 138 of the image-signal-processing portion 110D shown in FIG. 29. FIG. 30 shows a configuration of the unit 250D for generating coefficient data. In this FIG. 30, components corresponding to those of FIG. 18 are

indicated by the same symbols.

The unit 250D for generating coefficient data has a subtraction portion 277 for subtracting difference data DF read out of an accumulation table 256 corresponding to a class code CLA output from 5 a class classification portion 260 from data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) y_p , which is output from a movable terminal of a transfer switch 259, of a target position in a teacher signal ST, thereby obtaining data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) x_p that corresponds to the target position in the teacher signal ST.

10 Further, the unit 250D for generating coefficient data has a tap selection circuit 278 serving as data selection means for taking out selectively and outputting, as items of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) of a predictive tap multiple items of data related to the target position in the teacher signal ST based on data (pixel data or DCT coefficient), 15 which is output from the movable terminal of the transfer switch 255, corresponding to the target position in the teacher signal ST.

This tap selection circuit 278 has the same configuration as that of the tap selection circuit 147 in the image-signal-processing portion 110D of FIG. 29. The tap selection circuit 278 selectively 20 takes out multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal ST if difference data of pixel data is stored in the accumulation table 256 and transfer switches 255 and 259 are each connected to the b-sides thereof and used.

25 If difference data of a DCT coefficient is stored in the accumulation table 256 and the transfer switches 255 and 259 are each connected to the a-sides thereof and used, on the other hand, the tap selection circuit 278 selectively takes out plural DCT coefficients that correspond to the periphery of the target position in the teacher

signal ST. For example, as the plural DCT coefficients, DC coefficients are selected which are present in a DCT coefficient block that corresponds to block data containing pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST and four DCT coefficient blocks 5 adjacent to this DCT coefficient block.

Further, the unit 250D for generating coefficient data has a normal equation generation portion 279 for generating a normal equation (see the above-mentioned Equation (8)) for obtaining item(s) of coefficient data W_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) for each class by using subtraction 10 data y (x_p), which is output from the subtraction portion 277, corresponding to each target position in the teacher signal ST, the item(s) of data x_i of a predictive tap selectively taken out by the tap selection circuit 278, and a class code CLB output from a class classification portion 264.

15 In this case, although one item of data y and the n number of item(s) of data x_i of a predictive tap corresponding thereto are combined to generate one item of learning data, many items of learning data are generated for each class. Accordingly, a normal equation 20 for obtaining coefficient data W_i is generated for each class in the normal equation generation portion 279.

The following will describe operations of the unit 250D for generating coefficient data shown in FIG. 30

First, a case such that difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 256 is that of pixel data will be described. In 25 this case, the transfer switches 255 and 259 are each connected to the b-sides thereof.

A teacher signal ST corresponding to the image signal V_b is supplied to an input terminal 251 and encoded by an MPEG2 encoder 252 to generate an MPEG2 stream. This MPEG2 stream is supplied to the

MPEG2 decoder 253. The MPEG2 decoder 253 decodes this MPEG2 stream to generate a student signal SS that corresponds to the image signal Va.

In the class classification portion 260, based on the student signal SS, a class code CLA indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST belongs is generated. This class code CLA is resulted from the block-unit class classification. This class code CLA is supplied to the accumulation table 256 as read address information. From the accumulation table 256, based on this class code CLA, difference data DF that corresponds to the target position in the teacher signal ST is read.

Of the teacher signal ST time-adjusted by a delay circuit 257, pixel data y_p of its target position is supplied via the b-side of the transfer switch 259 to the subtraction portion 277. This subtraction portion 277 is supplied with the difference data DF read from the accumulation table 256. Then, in the subtraction portion 277, the difference data DF is subtracted from the pixel data y_p so that pixel data x_p that corresponds to the target position in the teacher signal ST is generated.

In the tap selection circuit 278, based on the student signal SS output from the MPEG2 decoder 253, multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal ST are selectively taken out as item(s) of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) of a predictive tap.

In the class classification portion 264, a class code CLB indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST belongs is generated based on the student signal SS, pixel position mode information p_i , and the class code CLA.

In the normal equation generation portion 279, a normal

equation (see Equation (8)) for obtaining items of coefficient data W_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) is generated for each class by using pixel data y (x_p), which is output from the subtraction portion 277, corresponding to each target position in the teacher signal ST, the item(s) of data 5 x_i of a predictive tap selectively taken out by the tap selection circuit 278 corresponding to the pixel data y that corresponds to each target position, and the class code CLB generated by the class classification portion 264 corresponding to the pixel data (pixel data y) of each target position.

10 Then, this normal equation is solved in a coefficient data determination portion 266 so that coefficient data W_i of each class is obtained, and the coefficient data W_i is stored in the coefficient memory 267.

15 Next, a case such that difference data DF stored in the accumulation table 256 is that of a DCT coefficient will be described. In this case, the transfer switches 255 and 259 are each connected to the a-sides thereof.

20 A teacher signal ST that corresponds to the image signal V_b is supplied to the input terminal 251 and encoded by the MPEG2 encoder 252 to generate an MPEG2 stream. This MPEG2 stream is supplied to the MPEG2 decoder 253. The MPEG2 decoder 253 decodes this MPEG2 stream to generate a student signal SS that corresponds to the image signal V_a .

25 In the class classification portion 260, a class code CLA indicating a class to which pixel data of a target position in the teacher signal ST belongs is generated based on the student signal SS. This class code CLA is resulted from the block-unit class classification. This class code CLA is supplied to the accumulation table 256 as read address information. From the accumulation table

256, based on this class code CLA, difference data DF that corresponds to the target position in the teacher signal ST is read.

Of the teacher signal ST time-adjusted by a delay circuit 257, pixel data of its target position undergoes DCT processing in the DCT circuit 258 and a DCT coefficient y_p thus obtained is supplied via the a-side of the transfer switch 259 to the subtraction portion 277. Further, as described above, the difference data DF read out of the accumulation table 256 is supplied to the subtraction portion 277. In the subtraction portion 277, the difference data DF is subtracted from the DCT coefficient y_p so that a DCT coefficient x_p is generated.

In the tap selection circuit 278, plural DCT coefficients that corresponds to the periphery of target position in the teacher signal ST are selectively taken out as item(s) of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) of a predictive tap based on a DCT coefficient, which is obtained by the DCT circuit 254 and corresponds to pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST, generated by performing DCT processing on multiple items of pixel data of the student signal SS.

In the class classification portion 264, a class code CLB indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST belongs is generated based on the student signal SS, the pixel position mode information p_i , and the class code CLA.

In the normal equation generation portion 279, a normal equation (see Equation (8)) for obtaining items of coefficient data W_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) is generated for each class by using a DCT coefficient y (x_p), which is output from the subtraction portion 277, corresponding to each target position in the teacher signal ST, item(s) of data x_i of a predictive tap selectively taken out by the tap selection circuit 278 corresponding to this DCT coefficient y of each target position, and a class code CLB generated by the class classification portion

264 corresponding to the pixel data (DCT coefficient y) of each target position.

Then, this normal equation is solved in the coefficient data determination portion 266 so that coefficient data W_i of each class 5 is obtained, and the coefficient data W_i is stored in the coefficient memory 267.

In such a manner, in the unit 250D for generating coefficient data shown in FIG. 30, it is possible to generate the coefficient data W_i of each class to be stored in the coefficient memory 138 in the 10 image-signal-processing portion 110D of FIG. 29.

This coefficient data W_i has been generated by using subtraction data obtained by subtracting difference data (correction data) from data (pixel data or DCT coefficient) related to the teacher signal and item(s) of data x_i as a predictive tap selected on the basis of 15 the student signal SS. Therefore, in the image-signal-processing portion 110D shown in FIG. 29, the image signal V_b obtained from the image signal V_a through an estimate equation by use of this coefficient data W_i has a well reduced encoding noise.

It is to be noted that the processing in the image- 20 signal-processing portion 110D shown in FIG. 29 can also be realized in software by, for example, the apparatus 300 for processing image signal shown in FIG. 8.

The following will describe a processing procedure for obtaining the image signal V_b from the image signal V_a with reference 25 to a flowchart of FIG. 31.

First, at step ST401, the process starts processing, and at step ST402, it inputs from, for example, the input terminal 314 one frame or one field of the image signal V_a into the apparatus. In such a manner, pixel data that constitutes the image signal V_a input from

the input terminal 314 is stored in the RAM303 temporarily. It is to be noted that if this image signal Va is recorded in the hard disk drive 305 in the apparatus beforehand, this image signal Va is read out of this drive 305 so that the pixel data that constitutes this 5 image signal Va is temporarily stored in the RAM303.

At step ST403, it decides whether processing of all the frames or fields of the image signal Va has finished. If the processing has finished, the process ends the processing at step ST404. Otherwise, it goes to step ST405.

10 At step ST405, the process performs block-unit class classification based on the image signal Va input at step ST402, to generate a class code CLA indicating a class to which pixel data of a target position in the image signal Vb belongs.

15 Further, at this step ST405, the process performs pixel-data-unit class classification based on the image signal Va input at step ST402, pixel position mode information pi input with it being paired with pixel data of this image signal Va, and the above-mentioned class code CLA, to generate a class code CLB indicating a class to which pixel data of the target position in the image signal Vb belongs.

20 Next, at step ST406, based on the image signal Va input at step ST402, the process acquires multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the image signal Vb as item(s) of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) of a predictive tap.

25 At step ST407, the process reads out of the ROM302 etc. coefficient data W_i that corresponds to the class code CLB generated at step ST405 based on the class code CLB and uses this coefficient data W_i and the item(s) of pixel data x_i of the predictive tap to generate pixel data y (x_p) that corresponds to the pixel data of the target position in the image signal Vb through an estimate equation

(see Equation (1)).

Next, at step ST408, based on the class code CLA generated at step ST405, the process reads difference data DF that corresponds to that class code CLA out of the ROM302 etc., adds the difference data 5 DF to the pixel data $y (x_p)$ generated at step ST407 and corrects them, thereby generating pixel data y_p of the target position in the image signal V_b .

Next, at step ST409, it decides whether the processing to obtain pixel data of the image signal V_b has finished in all regions of the 10 pixel data of the image signal V_a input at step ST402. If the processing has not yet finished, the process returns to step ST405 to shift to the processing of the next target position. If finished, on the other hand, the process returns to step ST402 to shift to processing of inputting the next one frame or one field of the image 15 signal V_a .

In this case, if the difference data DF stored in the ROM302 etc. is that of a DCT coefficient obtained by DCT processing, the process performs DCT processing on the image signal V_a input at step ST402, to provide a DCT coefficient. At step ST406, the process 20 acquires plural DCT coefficients corresponding to the periphery of the target position in the image signal V_b . For example, as the plural DCT coefficients, DC coefficients are acquired which are present in a DCT coefficient block that corresponds to block data containing pixel data of the target position in the image signal V_b and four DCT 25 coefficient blocks adjacent to this DCT coefficient block.

In this case, further, since the data $y (x_p)$ generated at step ST407 provides a DCT coefficient and the data y_p obtained at step ST408 also provides a DCT coefficient, the process further performs inverse DCT coefficient processing on this data y_p to generate pixel data of

the target position in the image signal Vb.

In such a manner, by performing the processing along the flowchart shown in FIG. 31, it is possible to process the pixel data of the input image signal Va, thereby obtaining the pixel data of the 5 image signal Vb. As described above, the image signal Vb thus processed and obtained is output to the output terminal 315 or supplied to the display portion 311 so that an image due to the signal may be displayed or, further, supplied to the hard disk drive 305 where it is recorded on a hard disk.

10 Further, although a processing device is not shown, processing in the unit 250D for generating coefficient data of FIG. 30 can also be realized in software.

The following will describe a processing procedure for generating coefficient data with reference to a flowchart of FIG. 32.

15 First, at step ST441, the process starts processing, and at step ST442, it inputs only one frame or one field of a teacher signal. At step ST443, it decides whether processing of all the frames or fields of the teacher signal has finished. If the processing has not yet finished, the process goes to step ST444 to generate a student signal 20 from the teacher signal input at step ST442.

At step ST445, the process performs block-unit class classification based on the student signal SS generated at step ST444, to generate a class code CLA indicating a class to which pixel data of a target position in the teacher signal ST belongs.

25 Further, at this step ST445, the process performs pixel-data-unit class classification based on the image signal Va generated at step ST444, pixel position mode information pi obtained with it being paired with pixel data of this image signal Va, and the above-mentioned class code CLA, to generate a class code CLB indicating

a class to which pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST belongs.

5 Next, at step ST446, the process subtracts the difference data DF read out of the ROM etc. corresponding to the class code CLA generated at step ST445 from pixel data y_p of the target position in the teacher signal ST among multiple items of pixel data that constitute the teacher signal ST, to generate subtraction data x_p .

10 Next, at step ST447, based on the student signal SS generated at step ST444, the process acquires multiple items of pixel data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the teacher signal ST as item(s) of data x_i ($i=1, \dots, n$) of a predictive tap.

15 Next, at step ST448, the process decides whether learning processing has finished in all regions of the one frame or field of the pixel data of the teacher signal input at step ST442. If the learning processing has finished, the process returns to step ST442 to input the next one frame or field of the teacher signal, thus repeating the same processing as described above. Otherwise, the process goes to step ST449.

20 At this step ST449, the process generates a normal equation (see Equation (8)) for obtaining coefficient data W_i for each class by using the class code CLB generated at step ST445, the data x_i of the predictive tap acquired at step ST447, and the subtraction data y (x_p) that corresponds to the pixel data of the target position in the teacher signal ST generated at step ST446 and then returns to step ST445 to 25 shift to the processing of the next target position.

If the processing is finished at the above-mentioned step ST443, the process, at step ST450, solves the normal equation generated at step ST449 by a sweeping-out method etc., to calculate coefficient data of each class. At step ST451, the process saves the coefficient

data of each class in the memory and ends the processing at step ST452.

In such a manner, by performing the processing along the flowchart shown in FIG. 32, it is possible to obtain the coefficient data W_i of each class by using the same method as that for the unit 5 250D for generating coefficient data shown in FIG. 30.

If, in this case, the difference data DF stored in the ROM etc. is that of a DCT coefficient which is obtained through DCT processing, the process performs DCT processing on the student signal SS generated at step ST444, to provide a DCT coefficient. Further, the process 10 performs DCT processing on the teacher signal ST input at step ST442 to obtain a DCT coefficient. At step ST446, the process performs subtraction in a condition of the DCT coefficient.

Although in the above second through fifth embodiments, difference data DF has been stored in each of the accumulation tables 15 131 of the image-signal-processing portions 110A-110D and each of the accumulation tables 256 of the units 250A-250D for generating coefficient data, instead of storing the difference data DF, pixel data or a DCT coefficient itself may be stored in the accumulation tables 131 of the image-signal-processing portions 110B and 110C and 20 the accumulation tables 256 of the units 250B and 250C for generating coefficient data. In this case, the pixel data or the DCT coefficient stored in the accumulation tables 131 and 256 can be obtained by using data y itself in place of difference data df obtained by subtracting data x from data y in, for example, the unit 210 for generating 25 difference data shown in FIG. 6.

Although the above second through fifth embodiments have handled an MPEG2 stream subject to DCT processing, the present invention can be applied similarly to an embodiment in which any other encoded informational digital signal is handled. Further, the DCT

processing may be replaced by encoding involving any other orthogonal transformation such as wavelet transformation or discrete sine transformation.

Although the above second through fifth embodiments have been 5 described with reference to a case where the informational signal is an image signal, the present invention is not limited to it. For example, the present invention can be applied similarly also to a case where the informational signal is an audio signal, for example.

According to the present invention, a class to which pixel data 10 of a target position in an output informational signal belongs is detected on the basis of an input informational signal, so that informational data corresponding to the target position in the output informational signal among items of informational data that constitute the input informational signal is corrected using correction data that 15 corresponds to the detected class, in order to obtain informational data of the target position in this output informational signal, thereby enabling an encoding noise (encoding distortion) of an informational signal obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal to be well reduced.

20 Further, according to the present invention, informational data corresponding to a target position in an output informational signal among items of informational data that constitute an input informational signal is corrected using correction data that corresponds to a first class to which the target position in this output 25 informational signal belongs, while by using multiple items of informational data positioned in a periphery of the target position in the output informational signal selected on the basis of the corrected informational data and coefficient data that corresponds to a second class to which the target position in this output

informational signal belongs, informational data of the target position in this output informational signal is generated based on an estimate equation, thereby enabling an encoding noise (encoding distortion) of an informational signal obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal to be well reduced.

PROBABILITY OF UTILIZED INDUSTRIALIZATION

As described above, the present invention is capable of well reducing an encoding noise (encoding distortion) of an informational signal obtained by decoding an encoded informational digital signal and so could well be applied to a digital broadcast receiver etc.